

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1851.

[SIXPENCE. { WITH SUPPLEMENT GRATIS.

THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.

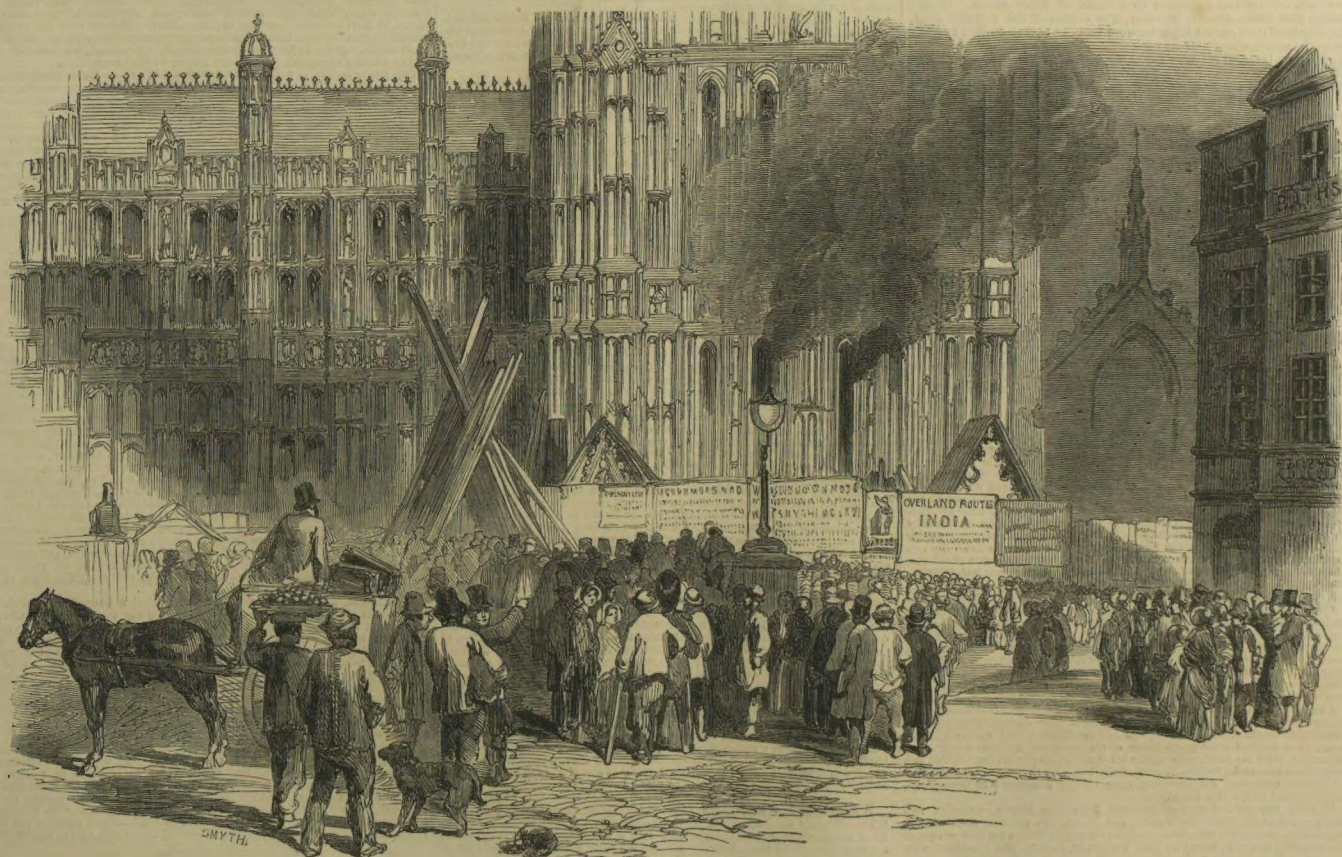
THIS great question—beyond comparison the greatest and most urgent of our time and nation—makes a sure, if not a rapid progress. Even that unhappy controversy forced upon the people of this country by the aggression of the Papacy, promises to open eyes that have long been shut, and hearts that have long been hardened by sectarian animosities against the secular education of the whole people, to the danger which Great Britain incurs in allowing her teeming multitudes to remain ignorant of the great arts of reading and writing. Protestantism is the mother and the nurse of enlightenment; but Protestant sects in this country, as far as the great masses of the people are concerned, have hitherto neglected their duty, and, to some extent, belied the principles upon which Protestantism is founded, by refusing to co-operate with one another in the instruction of the people. Sectarianism—in itself a great evil—has thus been the parent of another evil far greater. Every sect has been so jealous of every other sect, that union for an educational purpose, combined with or independent of religion, has become equally impossible. The result is, that Great Britain contains a larger proportion of utterly uneducated and degraded men and women and young children, than any other Christian country in the Old World or in the New, which is fit to be ranked in the same scale of civilisation and intelligence. That this is not a necessary consequence even of that great evil—a multiplicity of warring sects—is shown by the experience of the United States of America, where secular education has been provided for all classes of the people to an extent unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in the world. The Protestant sects of Great Britain, warned by the encroachments of Popery, and awakened to a full sense of the evils of this darkness of the popular mind, long talked of but never remedied, will, we trust, study by what means our American brethren have been enabled to surmount the many and great difficulties which surround the question; and, by thinking less of the outward form and

more of the inner spirit of Christianity, do it the justice to believe that it will find its best friends and supporters among those whose secular knowledge has been most cultivated. Should the aggressions of Popery lead to the conviction that the most effectual means to meet them is to enlighten the people, the nation will draw from that nettle of danger the flower of safety. The true way to combat a religious system which wars with the intelligence of mankind, is by armies of schoolmasters, and by the artillery of the spelling-book, the multiplication table, and the great facts of physical science. These are far better than penal laws and counter-aggressions—at variance alike with Christianity and with the principles of civil and religious liberty; and real good will flow from apparent evil, if the people of this country resolve to employ them.

The rapid progress made by the National Public School Association of Manchester, and the fact that it has called into existence another powerful body, in connexion with the Church of England, having objects as wide as its own, are of good augury. Mr. Cobden's speech at the meeting of the first-mentioned society—which recals, in many parts, the fervour and the zeal, no less than the sound logic and complete mastery of the subject, which signalled his efforts in the cause of Free-Trade—marks him as a man who knows that he has still work to do, and who, at the same time, knows how to do it. Hitherto, Mr. Cobden has not given the question all the aid which might have been expected; but, for the future—if he be true to the promise of his last speech—he will rank among its foremost and most strenuous supporters.

But in this, as in every other stage of the question, it is well that the whole truth should be known, and that the difficulties which impede the establishment of a system as large and comprehensive as the evil which it is intended to meet, should be fairly measured. There should be no working in the dark in a question like this; no reliance upon a popular support among the religious bodies of the country, which they have manifested as yet no disposition to accord; no self-deception on the part of the athlete in this great struggle,

that the worst is over, and that for the future the cause will roll with its own momentum, and increase like the snowball as it goes. Great as may be the progress which the cause has made, it has much more to make before it can be considered firmly established in the good sense and good feeling of the public. If much has been done, more remains to do. We wish we could share Mr. Cobden's conviction, when he says that "we have arrived at that period when all the world is agreed that secular education is a good thing for society." We wish we could believe that "there are no dissentients from that now; that, if there are, they dare not show themselves; and that all are agreed, that it is a good thing that English boys and girls should be taught to read and write, and as much geography and grammar as they can possibly imbibe." We wish sincerely that this were the case; but Mr. Cobden himself, though so earnest on the subject in one part of his speech, betrayed in another that he was not quite so sure that the unanimity was so complete as he had represented it to be. "I have found everywhere," said he, "among our dissenting friends, the objection, that by our system secular education is separated from religious instruction. I have found everywhere a pertinacious resolution on their part to maintain that the teaching people reading, writing, arithmetic, and a little geography and grammar, is a system inimical to religion." This, in fact, is the great difficulty which the friends of education have to surmount. This objection exists, and must be combated wherever and whenever it may be raised, if any real progress is to be made in the settlement of this mighty question. No good can be done by shutting our eyes against it, or treating it with contempt. It must be confronted boldly, and refuted satisfactorily. Those who hold it must be taught the cruelty of acting upon it as regards the outcast children of our swarming streets and alleys, when they do not and cannot act upon it in the case of those children who are happy enough to possess parents to pay for their instruction. As Mr. Cobden showed, by the instances which he cited of the schools of Birm-



FIRE IN THE CLOCK TOWER OF THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Last week the neighbourhood of Carlisle was visited by a flood little less in extent than that of the 1st of January.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

The Gray's Inn lecturer has given notice (with the sanction of the members), that the annual voluntary examination in law of students for the bar, will take place in the hall of the Society in next Trinity Term, viz. on the 5th and 6th days of June. The competition for honours, and for the lecturer's prize out of the reports of Vesey, Jun., is restricted to the students who, from the present term to the time of examination, may be attending Mr. Lewis's lectures.

The *Norfolk Chronicle* announces the following reductions of rents:—Mr. Nelson, 15 per cent.; Mr. John Day, of Wymondham, 10 per cent.; the Duke of Norfolk, 10 per cent.; the Venerable Archdeacon Bourne, 10 per cent.; Colonel Mason, of Neeton Hall, 10 per cent.



COLLEGE OF THE PROPAGANDA AT ROME, SKETCHED FROM THE PIAZZA DI SPAGNA.

COLLEGE OF THE PROPAGANDA AT ROME.

THIS celebrated educational establishment is situated at the southern extremity of the Piazza di Spagna, in the centre of the most fashionable quarter of Rome. It is a heavy structure, with nothing attractive in its architectural details, and is disguised by a range of shops which run along, or rather form a part of, its basement.

There are two principal entrances—one in the Via di Propaganda, the other (represented in the Engraving) in the Piazza di Spagna; and over this latter the title of the College is inscribed in large characters, thus—*Collegio de Propaganda Fide*. The edifice is the joint production of the architects Bernini and Borromini, and was begun about the year 1622, in the Pontificate of Gregory XV., and was completed in the succeeding reign of Urban VIII.

The College of the Propagation of the Faith is the Grand Missionary head-quarters of the Roman Catholic Church, and its system of education is one of the most comprehensive that was ever devised in any age or country, for any purpose whatever. It was aptly compared by a witty Frenchman, the Abbé Raynal, to a sword, the handle of which remained in Rome, while the point reached everywhere. Its object is to educate students of every country, complexion, and language on the habitable globe, for the service of the altar, in their own countries respectively, and for the propagation of the Roman Catholic faith, by preaching and teaching its dogmas and doctrines as missionaries amongst their own countrymen. In its classes are to be found, accordingly, Chinese, Hindus, Negroes, Abyssinians, natives of Pegu, of Siam, and other remote parts of Asia and Africa, inhabitants of the different countries of South America, of the United States, and of Europe; and while these youths cultivate a perfect knowledge of their own native tongues and their idioms, together with the Latin and the Italian—the languages of the class-room—their education comprises also the various branches of learning which constitute the literary training of the Roman Catholic priesthood, viz. the learned languages, logic, physical and moral science, history, metaphysics, theology, and the Scriptures.

The occasion when the polyglot character of the College can be best

observed and understood, is furnished by the annual Epiphany examination of the students, when one from each of the countries represented at the College is selected to display his proficiency in the public Examination Hall, in presence of a numerous assemblage of Cardinals, Professors, dignitaries, and any respectable visitors, foreign or native, who may choose to go and witness the extraordinary spectacle of forty or fifty different languages being spoken successively by youths of as many different nations, dressed for the occasion in their native costume, and exhibiting every hue and variety of the human countenance, from the woolly-headed Negro of Africa, the Mongolian, or the Chinese with his pig-tail, to the fairest-featured member of the Caucasian race. Each student, in his turn, gets upon a platform, and there delivers a short speech, recites a poem or part of a play, or sings a native song, and perhaps accompanies himself with a tom-tom, a primitive pipe, or any other musical instrument of his country. The scene is one of the most extraordinary and amusing imaginable.

Amongst the languages to be perpetually heard within the walls of the Propaganda are the Hebrew, the Chaldean (ancient and modern), the Armenian (ancient and modern), the Samaritan, the Syriac, the Arabic, the Persian, the Turkish, the Kourdish, ancient and modern Greek, Latin, Italian, Maltese, Coptic, Ethiopic, Chinese (several dialects); various other dialects of India, Asia, and Africa, such as the Hindustani, the Pegu, the Siamese, the Sanscrit, the Georgian, &c.; the tongues of Europe, viz. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Bulgarian, Russ, the Irish, and other branches of the ancient Celtic, &c.

The College dress of the students is a long black gown, like the *soutane* of the Roman Catholic priesthood, distinguished, however, from the *soutane* by two stripes of scarlet down the front—a remnant of ancient costume, recalling the *latus clavus* of the patricians and the noble youth of Pagan Rome.

DUST STORM IN THE PUNJAB.

In the Punjab, terrific storms of wind and dust frequently rage during the hot season. The instance here sketched by an obliging Correspond-

ent took place in the month of June, at Wuzurabad, where, although in the station the sky was perfectly clear, and the air quite calm and sultry, about 4 P.M. a streak like a thin cloud was observable to the east, which, by degrees, became extended from N.E. to S.E. From this appearance, those who had before witnessed a severe dust storm in this part of the world, prophesied an extremely bad one before nightfall and their prophecy was verified to the full. In the course of half an hour the long light cloud had magnified itself into a huge column of dust, towering high into the heavens, and evidently rolling on at a terrific pace towards the cantonments: the eastern end of these it speedily enveloped in impenetrable darkness, though, at the western end, the atmosphere remained as calm and undisturbed as before. In an instant, however, without any warning, the wind rose, and blew a perfect hurricane: the sun was obscured, and it became as dark as the blackest night, the dust penetrating every crevice in the doors, and filling the house with clouds of dust. The storm continued for about three hours, but the last hour and a half with decreased force.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.—The Government of Rome has authorised excavations in the Via Appia, and in those parts of it especially which have not hitherto been explored. The result of these examinations has been the discovery of many Roman remains of great interest, amongst which may be mentioned slabs of stone bearing the following inscriptions:—

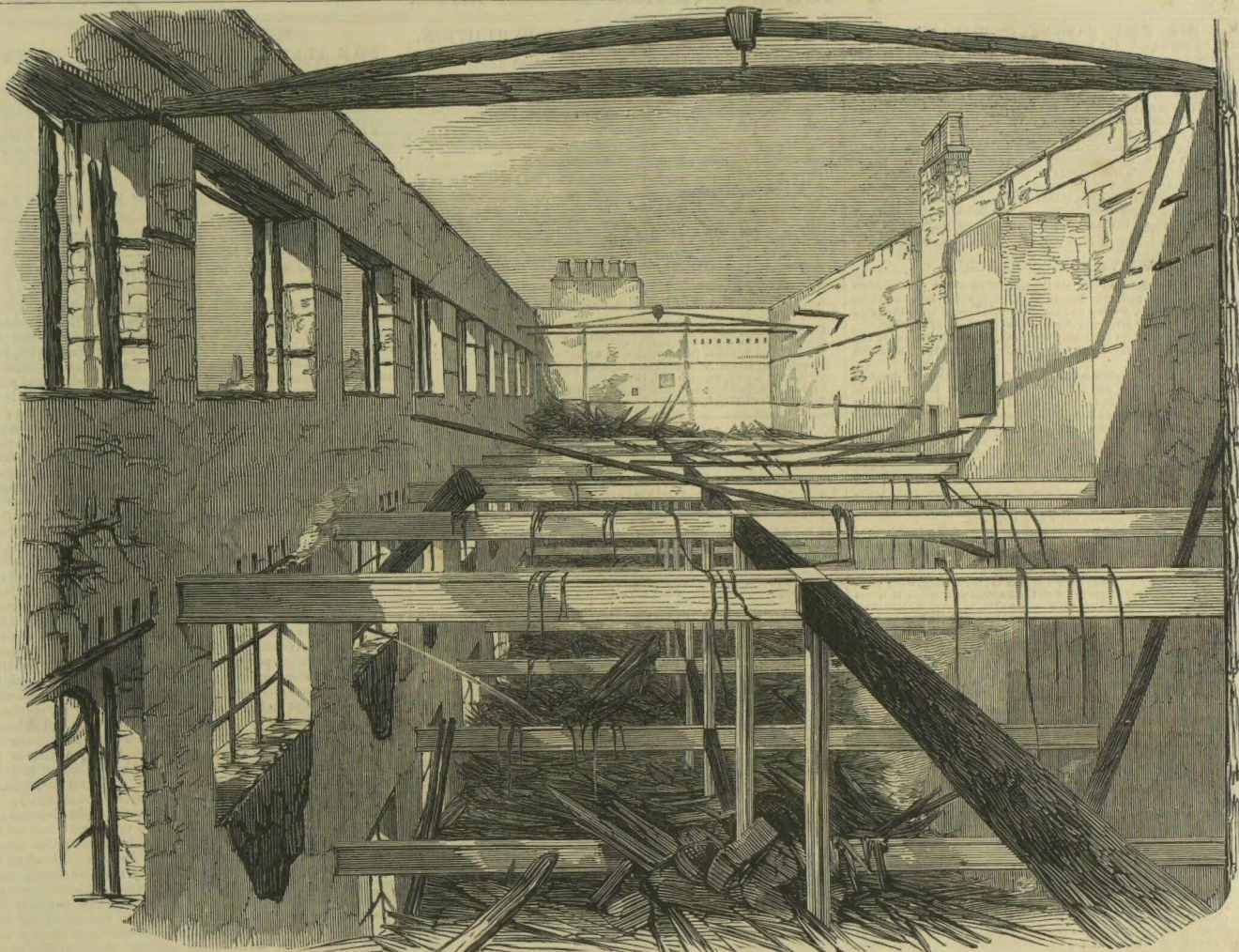
ROC CERATAPHIVM AYREH INACHI AVG LIB OPHONIS TABEL LARIORVM
PATRIMON ET AVRELIAE MACARIAN ETICET AVRELIAE RODOTYSE ET
L.B.D. LIBETIVS QVAE POTERICQ FORVM
MACARIANETI CONAGI DYLCISSIMAS QVAE VIXIT ANNIS XXVIII. M. VI
DIEB. XVIII. HORAS. VI INACHVS COIVGI BENEMERENTI MACARIANAE
DYLCIS.

The most remarkable point in the second inscription is the fact, that not only the odd days but the odd hours of life are marked, a circumstance not yet met with in other inscriptions.

The Society of Friends have, it is said, agreed for the future to pay all tithes due to lay impropriators; to such imposts, when demanded by clergymen, they will offer the same strenuous opposition they have hitherto done.



DUST-STORM IN THE PUNJAB.



RUINS OF THE GREAT FIRE IN HOUNDSDITCH, ON MONDAY

EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BY FIRE. DREADFUL ACCIDENT.

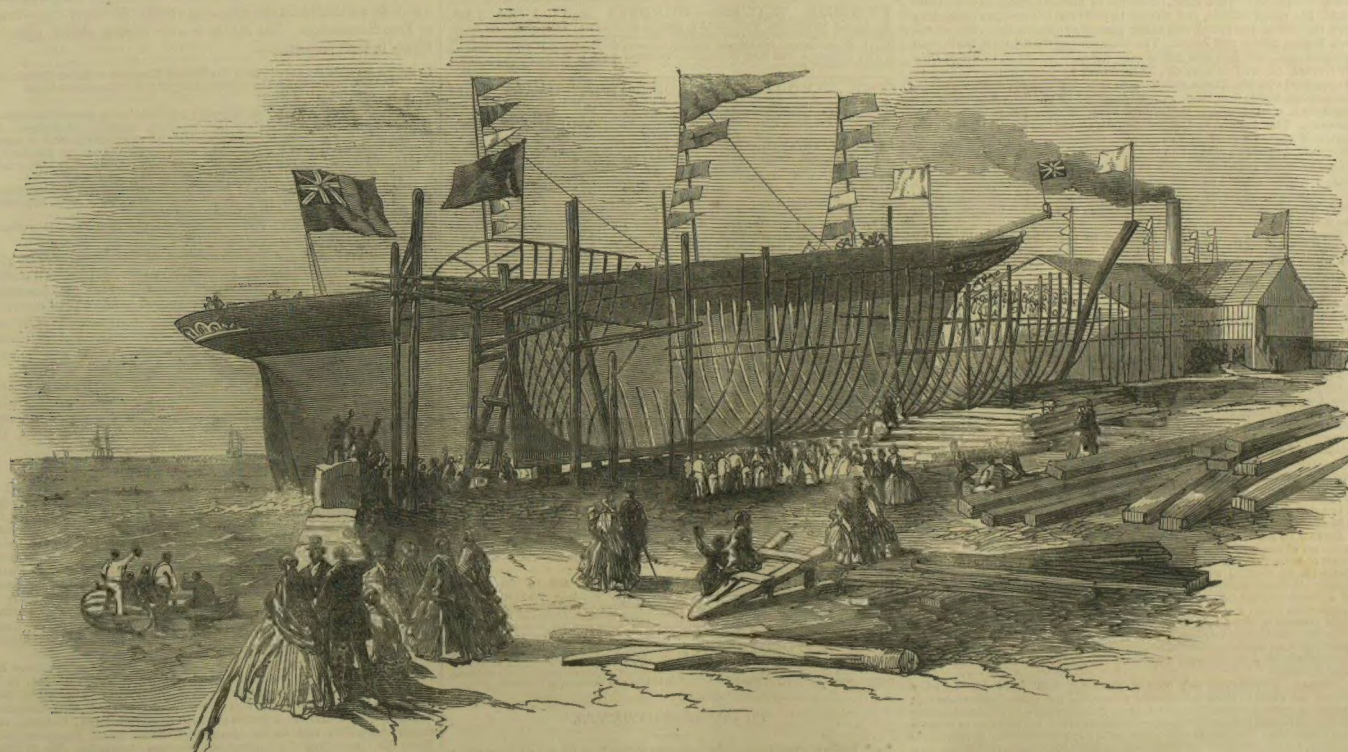
ON Monday morning the City was visited by a fire of very considerable magnitude. The scene of the disaster was a large range of premises belonging to Mr. J. R. Bousfield and Co., wholesale clothiers and exporters, situate at Nos. 126 and 127, Houndsditch, City. The business was one of the largest at the east end of London, upwards of 1500 hands being employed by the firm. The buildings in which the fire commenced had been erected not more than seven or eight years, of the most substantial construction, and nearly 200 feet long; the lower floor being used as the manufactured goods depot, whilst that immediately above contained the made-up goods, which were ready for the home trade or for exportation. The floor above was the depository for the piece goods, and the one over that was occupied by the cutting-rooms. Some slight conception of the extent of each floor may be formed, when it is stated that every room

stretched the whole length of the building, and were only separated by immense iron doors. Although the latter proved of some benefit in preventing the flames from travelling, they were almost as destructive, by shutting out the firemen for a time from the exact scene of conflagration.

The principal damage may be described as follows:—The large building behind, front premises nearly burned out, consisting of cutting-rooms, piece-rooms, made-up goods rooms, and general stock rooms. In one compartment alone there were several thousand pieces of cloth, worth a large sum, and in another were a great assortment of articles for the spring season, the whole of which have either been destroyed or seriously injured by fire. Fortunately, the front house has escaped, and some thousand pounds' worth of goods have received but trifling injury at the extremity of the premises. The total loss, however, will amount to many thousand pounds. The firm was insured, for the building, in the Sun Fire-office; and the stock in trade and fixtures were insured in the Phoenix, Imperial, and Union Fire-offices.

With respect to the origin of the fire, not the slightest idea can be formed by the firm. In the construction of the buildings every precaution was adopted to secure them from the ravages of fire, by substituting iron girders for the ordinary timber beams, yet the destruction is apparently as great as if they had been built in the usual manner. On Saturday evening, about seven o'clock, the premises were closed in the regular course of business, and Mr. Bousfield, as was his practice, went over the establishment with one of his clerks and saw that all was safe. The doors were locked, and the warehouses remained closed the whole of Sunday. The first intimation of the property being on fire was given shortly after five o'clock on Monday morning, by some parties who resided in one of the houses in a gateway, on the south side of the warehouses, leading to the Jews' Infant School.

During the progress of the conflagration, Hoffmeyer, one of the London Brigade, belonging to Waterloo-road station, received such serious injuries as will in all probability cost the poor fellow his life. He was



LAUNCH OF THE "MARION MACINTYRE," AND PART OF THE SHIP "IRON FRAME," AT MESSRS JORDAN AND GETLEY'S BUILDING-YARD, LIVERPOOL.

colony of Van Diemen's Land, and Sir Henry Edward Fox Young, knight, Lieutenant-Governor of the colony of South Australia; while Charles Joseph La Trobe, Esq., has been raised to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the colony of Victoria.

TOWN TALK AND TABLE TALK.

SOME six months have elapsed since the last column of "Talk" was

The principal *fête* took place on Friday, the 17th ult, in celebration of the natal day of the Marchioness, when a grand banquet for forty guests was succeeded by a ball, at which all the leading families in the county were present.

PRIVATE THEATRICALS AT FROGNAL.—Viscount and Viscountess Sydney have been entertaining a numerous party of fashionable company since Christmas at Frognal. On Friday week, an amateur dramatic performance took place, at which a very distinguished numerous circle of guests was present.

NAVAL MEDALS.—The following notice has been issued from the Admiralty:—"Three years and seven months have now elapsed since notice was first issued, by command of her Majesty, in the *Gazette* of 1st June, 1847, requiring all persons to make application who should consider themselves qua-

The *Glasgow Daily Mail* contains an account of a clergyman, the pastor of the Levern church, at Barrhead, having been convicted in the penalty of £20 for poaching on Sunday, the 5th ult. The reverend gentleman had set a snare, and taken someone upon the estate of the Earl of Glasgow. The public prosecutor requested that the sentence might be mitigated to £10; but the judge, Lord of Paisley, where the case was heard, refused to entertain the application.

the boldest helms breast—'for a time'?"¹ Of course, previously, to the bursting of the vague flowers of rhetoric in the arms of the rag and the blowing of the clearest spring blossoms in Covent Garden—previously, that is to say, to the recognized and authentic opening of the season—the monster topic of the day has made awful havoc among the smaller and defenceless topics, which have come down upon and gobbled up without pity or remorse.

How many people will the season of 1851 see in London, is the favourite topic with the speculative artimediæans of the day. How much money will be made in the season, is the favourite topic with the speculative financiers of the day. I have taken some pains to examine and collect the different estimates: but, as they can in general

From the communicated arrangements of the Executive Committee, an intending visitor is now enabled to gather a pretty clear notion of the adjustment of the interior of the Palace of Glass to the magnificent purposes of the Exhibition. Let him suppose himself to be entering by the central entrance at the eastern extremity, viz. that immediately adjoining the Knightbridge Barracks, on his right hand lies the north, on his left hand is the south. He will first find himself in the midst of specimens the produce and handicraft of the United States; approximating these are contributions from Russia, also placed on both sides, north and south, of the central avenue. On the south side, next to those of Russia

The diagram illustrates a gallery layout with two main sections, each labeled "GALLERY" at the top and bottom. The top section contains a "PASS" area on the right. On the left, there are three rows of cases. The first row has a case labeled "CASE BUILT UP" and a case labeled "CASE". The second row has a case labeled "LOW CASE" and a case labeled "CASE". The third row has a case labeled "BUILT UP" and a case labeled "CASE". To the right of these cases is a large rectangular area labeled "CASE". The bottom section is similar, with a "PASS" area on the right and cases on the left. The cases on the left are labeled "CASE", "CASE", and "CASE". To the right of these cases is a large rectangular area labeled "CASE".

GALLERY

PASS

CASE BUILT UP

CASE

LOW CASE

CASE

BUILT UP

CASE

CASE

CASE

GALLERY

PASS

CASE

CASE

CASE

CASE

EXAMINES IN WHICH COINTEGRATES CASE

Building. Crossing over to the south side of the central passage, and retracing his steps, he will find in this frontage line manufactures; next, printed, dyed, and colored papers, and various articles of stationery; then, various articles of cutlery, and various articles of hardware, cutlery, surgical instruments, locks, and grates. The spaces behind in this southern division will be occupied by furniture, hardware, agricultural and mining implements, and various specimens of iron, velvet, and silk. The next section will be devoted to various articles of hardware, glass, together with specimens of naval architecture, philosophical instruments, mechanical engineering, vegetable and animal food, chemical produce, will be located.

Various directions and notifications, addressed specially to exhibitors, regarding the arrangement of their tables or counters, have been issued by the Executive Committee. Of these, the following, as to the extent to which exhibitors may use the space between the tables, is of importance.

"In all those cases where an exhibitor does not care either to exercise his own taste in displaying his articles, or to use the power of regulating the height of the tables, he may, if he so desire, have his articles placed on a building up steps or shelves, adixing brackets, &c., but is content to have his

be founded upon no more substantial data than the individual opinions of their upholders, the calculations in question are, to say the least of them, something gossamery. The more moderate school of calculators content themselves with doubling the ordinary population of London. More sanguine spirits estimate that the Continental influx alone will be sufficient for that end, and that we shall have a bearded foreigner for every smooth-skinned Cockney. Now, I repeat, again, that the amount of the influx is like the amount of the foreign coin, and that the school of calculators in question deluge us with an foundation of something like seven millions of hungry men, women, and children, all intent upon the sights and sounds, the eatables and drinkables of London! The next question is, how much this godly crowd intends to fling into the expectant hats owned by the dwellers in the great capital. Doctors, as before and as usual, disagree. A £5 note is estimated to be the average of the expenditure of the average of these eight-seer. People with grander notions, and possibly with better-filled purses, scout the humble flimsy, and magnanimously insist that each visitor must at least spend double. Here, of course, you will find an estimator upon the more liberal scale of expenditure applying his notions to the more populous scale of expectant visitors; there, you have the reverse process taking place; anon, a medium breed of estimators is produced, who, in the estimation of the expenditure of the average of the average of expenditure, but the general result seems to be that what weight of authority we possess in favour of estimating the amount likely to be raised upon gaping London next season as something ranging from fifteen to twenty millions of sterling pounds. How much was made, or imagined to be made, in the railway year, I know not. But, in the vast majority of instances, the mint of Clipped-courts poured but fairly money for the great good, which would be clipped-cake leaves in the owners' pockets next year. So will it be in the case of the children of the metal that—ringing to the ear, glittering to the eye, temptingly palpable to the finger-ends. Yankee eagles, Spanish dollars, Prussian thalers, Italian florins, Dutch guilders, Russian roubles, Hamburg marks, Austrian ducats, and our next-door neighbour's net little Napoleons, or fat, burly five-franc pieces—all transmuting into English gold and silver—all sporting as sovereigns, half-sovereigns, crowns, half-crowns, shillings, sixpences, and burrpenny-bills, through exulting John Bull's pockets. A godly sight, my masters; may we not have to see it!

An ancient Parliamentary notability has just departed. Mr. William Holmes, the most consummate "whip" who ever mustered the stragglers of St. Stephen's to a close and critical division, is no more. His *entresolence* will be found in another column. The ancient Tory disciplinarian has left a strange but honourable memory behind him. A finished man of the world—a scholar and a wit,—overflowing with *bon-homme*—staunch to his party as buttress to its unity—conversant with every phase of contemporary life—his consummate call of order to the unruly members who did not know their minds—his inimitable diplomatist when the result of the intrigue was to be a vote gained to his Tory friends—the late Conservative whipper-in was the perfection of his anomalous, but practically important vocation. For I suspect that most Ministers will admit, that capital working under-secretaries may be found by the score for a single first-rate "whip." This officer requires the delicate mingling of so many and so nice qualifications. A division is close off—important for Ministers, and turns out to be a least a puzzling and disquieting question. The blaze forth the talents of your private whipper-in. He knows every doubtful man—he knows his haunts and his habits—his ambitions and his desires. He is especially up to his hobbies. He understands how to hint promotion in a squeeze of the hand—how to convey a private impression of ministerial approbation in an almost imperceptible movement of the eye-lid. Daily and hourly, by hints, nods, jogs, and winks, the accomplished whipper-in does his spitting, and the division is all but secure. He has a word to say to the members of the Opposition. He says, "Hear! Put up So-and-so to speak against time." So-and-so accordingly bursts into a flaming flood of indignant oratory, and a lot of respectable country gentlemen in the strangers' gallery nod to each other, and say, "Ah come now; there's a patriot!" Meantime where is the whipper-in? Galloping, as hard as the siney bay in his brougham can go, from street to square, from pillar to post; tracking the absentees with the nose of a Cuban blood-hound; pouncing upon them with the spring of a Bengal tiger; and then, in the twinkling of an eye, turning round to the subtlety of the beasts; and, finally, bearing the last down in triumph, just as the division-bell is ringing and rattling through all the lobbies and avenues of the House of Commons.

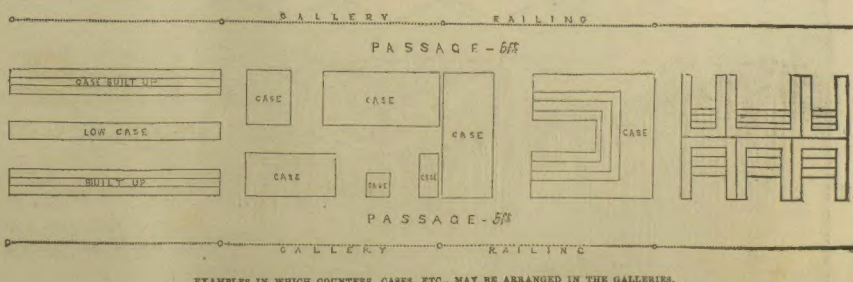
ANGUS B. REACH

will be seen the examples of the wealth and industry of Norway and Sweden, whilst the productions from Northern Germany join those of Russia on the north and those of Norway and Sweden on the south of the central passage. Next are ranged the industrial spectiments of the Zollverein on both sides, north and south, and the manufactures of the Netherlands and the products of Holland on the sides. The commerce and industry of Belgium are next accounted for on both sides; adjacent, also on both sides, will be located the contributions of France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy are next in the northern division; whilst Switzerland, the Tyrol, and the Alpine countries are next in the southern division. Next are arranged the manufactures and produce of Mexico and Brazil; those of Egypt and Turkey occupy the remaining compartments on the north side close to the transept; then come the articles from Greece, Persia, and Arabia, whilst those

The visitor now crosses the transept, and, after viewing the contributions from the East Indies and our colonial possessions, will advance upon the arts and manufactures of the United Kingdom, the machinery being in possession of the north-western portion of the Building. The galleries will be divided into similarly geographical distinction.

Independently of the transept, eight other passages run across the Building from north to south, interrupted only at the eastern and western extremities by the entrances there.

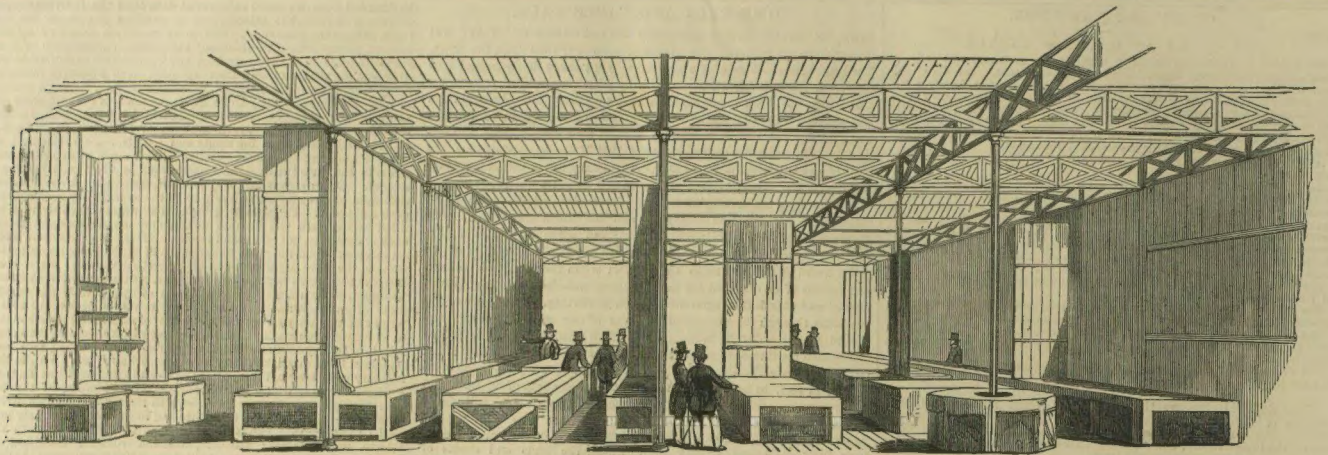
The entrance to the minute paper-arrangements for the productions of the United Kingdom and her colonies retain the classification into the thirty sections. Of the four grand divisions—raw produce, machinery, manufactures, and the fine arts—the articles included within the first (raw produce) will be located on the south side of the main aisle, and the second (machinery) on the north side; the third (manufactures) on both sides (north and south) being occupied by manufactures of the fine arts. To be even more explicit: let the visitor suppose, as before, that he has crossed the transept. On each side of him, a range of seven bays, each bay consisting of three aisles, will be seen. The first bay, on the south side, will be taken up, then, on the north-side frontage, will appear articles from the United Kingdom, thus placed:—Specimens of paper-printing and bookbinding; next, furniture and upholstery, paper-hangings, &c.; next, manufactures used for architectural or building decorations in marbles, porphyries, artificial stones, &c.; and, lastly, manufactures of the fine arts. The visitor will here have arrived at the western extremity of the



articles laid out on a plain deal counter of some uniform width and height, the Executive Committee will be prepared to furnish such an uniform plain deal counter.

"It must be obvious that it will be impossible to determine what sort of counters will be thus adopted for each class, or the actual position of them, until the Executive Committee are made acquainted with the extent to which contributors propose to avail themselves of the privilege of gratifying their own taste, and arranging their articles in their own way. The principle which will guide the Executive Committee is, first, to leave every one to please himself, subject to general control, and then to act on behalf of those who are indifferent, unable, or unable to.

"It has been already explained that vertical, wall, or partition space may be obtained by suspending fabrics over lines, &c., by hanging draperies from the girders. In all cases where the Executive Committee are called upon to provide vertical space, &c., and where these means will suffice, they will be adopted. But, until the articles are seen, and actually deposited within the Building, the Executive Committee will not be able to define to what extent they will provide more substantial modes of obtaining vertical space.



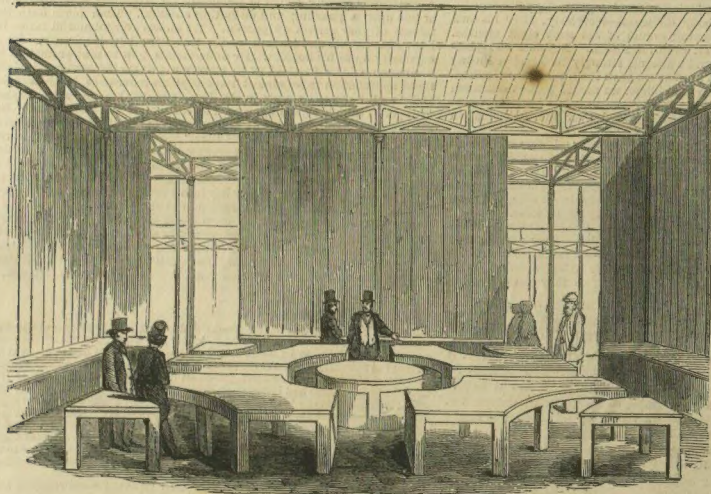
SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNTERS.

"Some misapprehension has existed, that an exhibitor, having an allotment of vertical space, is thereby necessarily entitled to some indefinite amount of horizontal space. As a general rule, vertical space must be interpreted literally; for, if it were not so, and every exhibitor on vertical space was entitled to project his articles over those of another exhibitor immediately below, serious inconveniences would result in many cases; still there may be some instances where a moderate projection (say not exceeding two feet) can be allowed without detriment to a neighbouring exhibitor; and the Executive Committee will use every exertion to find the best accommodation for every one having vertical space, consistently with justice to those exhibitors who have allotments of floor or counter space; but the extent to which this may be possible cannot be defined, until it is seen how far exhibitors having vertical space, and exhibitors having horizontal space in the same class, are disposed mutually to accommodate one another.

When all exhibitors who desire to have their own way and work in concert shall have done so, the Executive Committee will be prepared to do their best in carrying out the arrangements necessary for displaying the remaining articles; but if exhibitors decline co-operating together, then the decision will be made by the Executive Committee."

may be placed in any direction north to south, or east to west, provided they do not extend beyond the boundaries of the space allotted to their class, or into the general passages; but it is requested that counters and cases should be multiples of 4 feet, as far as possible. No vertical or counter space in the galleries must rise above 7 feet from the floor.

A circular from the Executive Committee, respecting the allotment of space for Agricultural Implements, affixes the following conditions:—"1. That, although the shafts must be sent with wagons, horse gear, steam-engines, rollers, drills, horse hoes, horse rakes, and similar implements, for the purpose of moving and trying them, the shafts will not be allowed to remain attached to these implements when within the Building, as they would occupy unnecessary space. 2. That exhibitors will be allowed to hang up all small implements, such as harrows, &c. on frames, which they will be expected to provide. 3. That exhibitors will be allowed to place ploughs, and similar implements, one above the other, on light frames, which they will be expected to provide, so as to make the most of the room. 4. That duplicates of the same implements, or such as are dissimilar only in minor detail, power, or size, must be omitted. 5. That, in order to prevent the same implement being shown by several different parties, exhibitors must give the priority to implements of their own invention and manufacture. As the Exhibition includes all branches of industry, and, as a full proportion has been appropriated to agricultural machinery, no extension of space can be granted. The wishes of exhibitors respecting the shape of their stands cannot be guaranteed to be fully complied with; but their convenience will be studied as far as the form of the Building, the alleys for the public, and other circumstances, will admit."



SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNTERS.

They have also announced, respecting the fittings-up of the space, that the boundaries of each class of goods have been fixed, and counters, &c. of one class must not extend into the limits of the adjacent classes. Counters projecting into the great central passage must not be built up higher than four feet at summit: they may be raised in steps from the ground. Every passage leading out of the great central passage to the north or south must be eight feet wide, and in the centre of the twenty-four feet space between the columns. No communication from east to west between passages without special leave in writing. Passages taken out of exhibiting space by exhibitors must be, on the ground, not less than five feet wide; and in the gallery, not less than three feet. Counters below a gallery may be built up to nineteen feet, if required. Vertical wall or partition space must not project into the great central passage.

Specimens of the arrangements proposed for counters, shelves, and vertical space, on the ground-floor, are presented in our present week's illustrations.

Examples in which counters, cases, &c. may be arranged in the galleries are to be found in the plan engraved on the preceding page. Exhibitors are reminded that there must be always a clear passage of 5 feet next the railings in the galleries, and no intermediate passages less than 3 feet. Cases, counters, &c.

So far the gigantic task of allotting the space for the thousands of exhibitors who have claimed it is somewhat accomplished. None but those engaged in such a service can have an adequate idea of the onerous and harassing duties which have been imposed on the Executive Committee, whose willingness to attend to and accommodate all classes of contributors has been remarkable, as the impartiality and good sense which have hitherto characterised their discharge of their important functions.

We hear with regret of the enormous demand insisted upon for the services of the police (the division A, with members of the detective force), who are to be entrusted with the care of protecting the Building and its contents. Will our readers credit us, when we say that report fixes the amount of the demand at £8000 to £10,000? Mr. Mayne, the Police Commissioner, will be invested with the full responsibility for the safety of the Great Exhibition, but our metropolitan Argus seems in this case to be determined to be amply paid for the use of his hundred eyes. Surely this expense might have been borne by the Government: not a shilling has yet been, or will be (despite Mr. Paxton's letter) extracted from the public purse for the advancement or interests of the Exhibition; but the protection of the collected results of the trade and industry of the empire from mischief and injury, might have been fairly conceded by

the Home Department. After all, it would have been but the watching over the properties of the good and industrious citizens against the attacks of the bad and idle members of society.

The Sappers and Miners at present engaged on the Building have been marking out the spaces for the passages by lines of red paint. The actual division, by hoarding, &c. of the compartments allotted to foreign and home contributors, is commenced; and, as next week preparations are to be entered upon for the reception of foreign goods, the public have received official notice that they will be altogether excluded from visiting the Building after the 3rd February. So strictly, are we assured, will this order be observed, that every Royal Commissioner, member of the Executive Committee, &c. will be provided with a special ticket of admission, which he will have to show, in order to enter beyond the offices of the Executive Department, &c.

The report of Mr. B. d'Azay on the credit of 500,000*fr.* to defray the expense for the transport of articles to the Exhibition, from France, has been approved of by the Committee. A vote has been taken on the subject, and carried by a large majority of the Assembly. A further credit of 100,000*fr.* is recommended for the purchase of patterns, &c. and a sum of 50,000*fr.*, to assist the operatives desirous of visiting London on the occasion. The total sum voted is 650,000*fr.* (£25,500*l.*)

The Portuguese Commissioners publicly announced the various articles to be sent from Portugal—wool, flax, African cotton, Cape Verd coffee, oil, dried fruits, honey, cheese, medicinal plants, timber, marbles, minerals, salt, arms and implements, naval models, sail-cloth, printed cottons, coarse woollens, carpets, woods, and furniture.

Manufactures in gold, silk, lace, jewellery, embroidery, woods, oils, petrifactions, and fruits are named from Syria; mother of pearl work is proffered from the Pacha of Jerusalem; marbles and flowers from Mr. Consul Finn; and some gold antique curiosities from Colonel Rose, the Syrian Consul-General.

A monster block of anthracite coal is to be brought from the Swansea Collieries. It is 17 feet long, 4 feet wide, 3 feet thick, and weighs nearly four tons. The colliers in the employ of the owners (Messrs. James and Aubrey) gave three days' work to the raising it, &c., without other reward than a barrel of beer presented to them to celebrate the safe landing of this specimen.

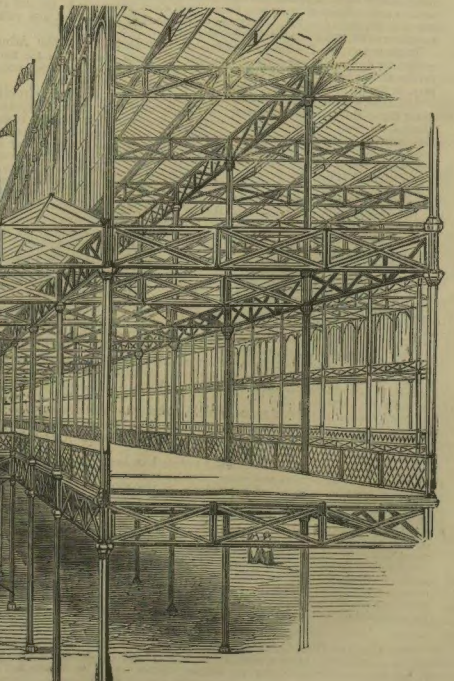
Tin and lead ores, Cornish minerals, porphyries, clays, slates, crystals, ventilator for coal-mines, ore-dressing machines, breakwater, cooking apparatus, steam-engines (various), tables, chairs, mineralogical and geological maps of Cornwall, pebble porphyry, granite and serpentine columns, pedestals and tables, vases, &c., appear in the promised returns from the Truro district.

The exhibitors (some 395) from Ireland appear to be in great spirits with the amount of space (9254 feet counter space, and 14,226 feet wall space) and other arrangements to accommodate their enterprise. Though late in the field, they are organizing visiting clubs among their workpeople. Exertions, especially in Dublin, are being made to induce the mechanic and artisan class to visit the Exhibition. The space allotted for the Dublin district is 10,840 superficial feet. Marbles, minerals, chemicals, animal and vegetable substances, carriages, cabinet looms; agricultural, philosophical, and musical instruments; woollens, linen, saddlery, paper, carpets, floor-cloth, lace, embroidery, clothing, cutlery, hardware, jewellery, glass, furniture, paper-hangings, bog-oak ornaments, marble tables, stone carving, turning in ivory and wood, die-sinking, &c., figure among the articles enumerated in the Dublin list. At a meeting in Dublin on the 25th, a report of the efforts of the Local Committee was read, and a new subscription list, for the general purposes of forwarding the articles to the Exhibition, and assistance to the working-men's clubs, &c., was determined upon.

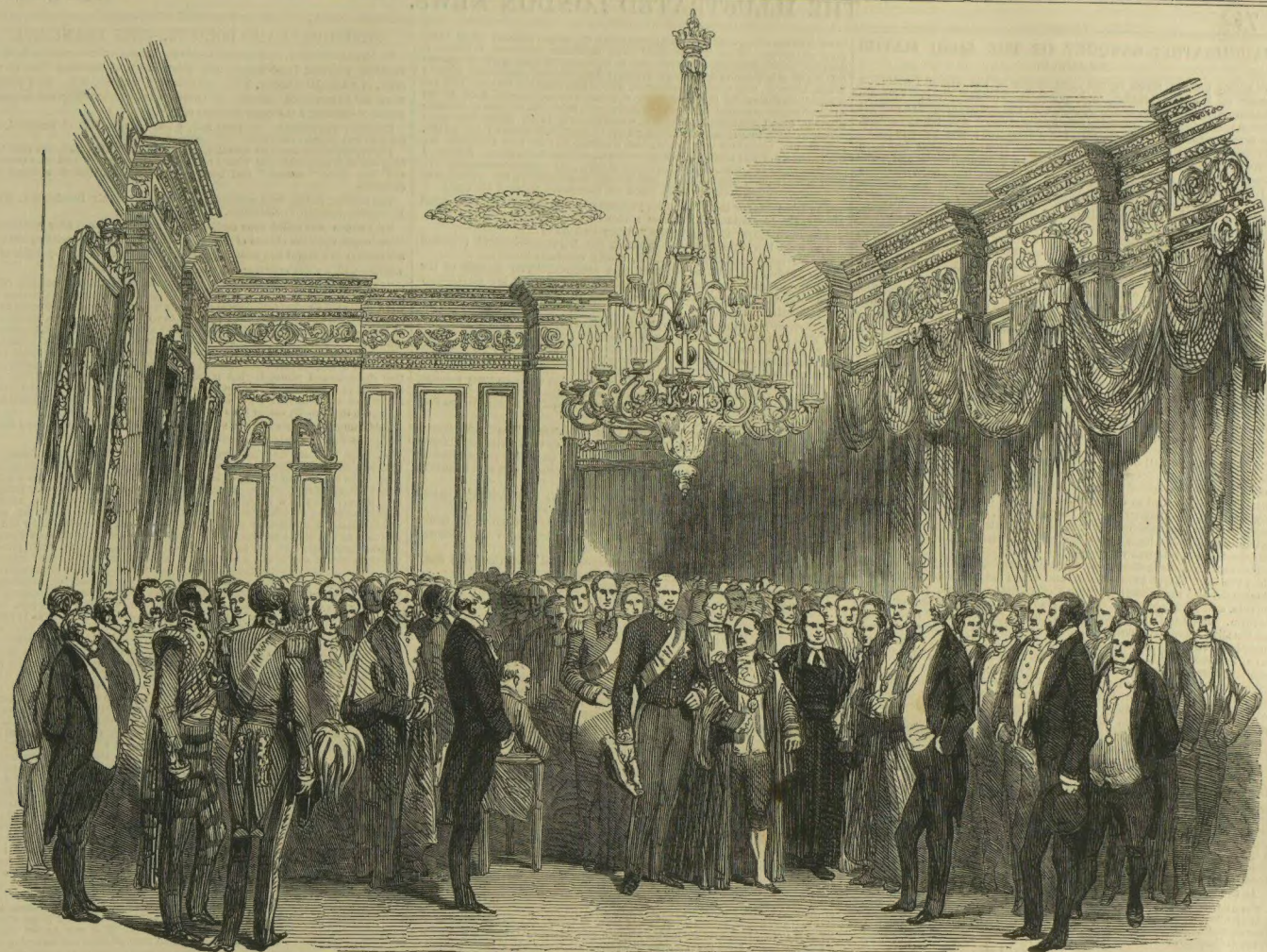
The Central Association at Leeds of all the clubs in the district, which provides an agency for general arrangements, so as to prevent confusion, is well worthy of imitation. Conveyance and lodging could be more certainly and cheaply provided, and we hope so sensible a concentration will be generally adopted.

The answer from the Executive Committee to exhibitors proposing to have attendance at the place assigned in the Building, declares that the rules and conditions upon which attendance can be permitted are not yet matured. "It must, however, be borne in mind that it will only be possible to grant the privilege to those exhibitors who have received allotment of space of sufficient amount to enable them to accommodate the attendant within the allotment."

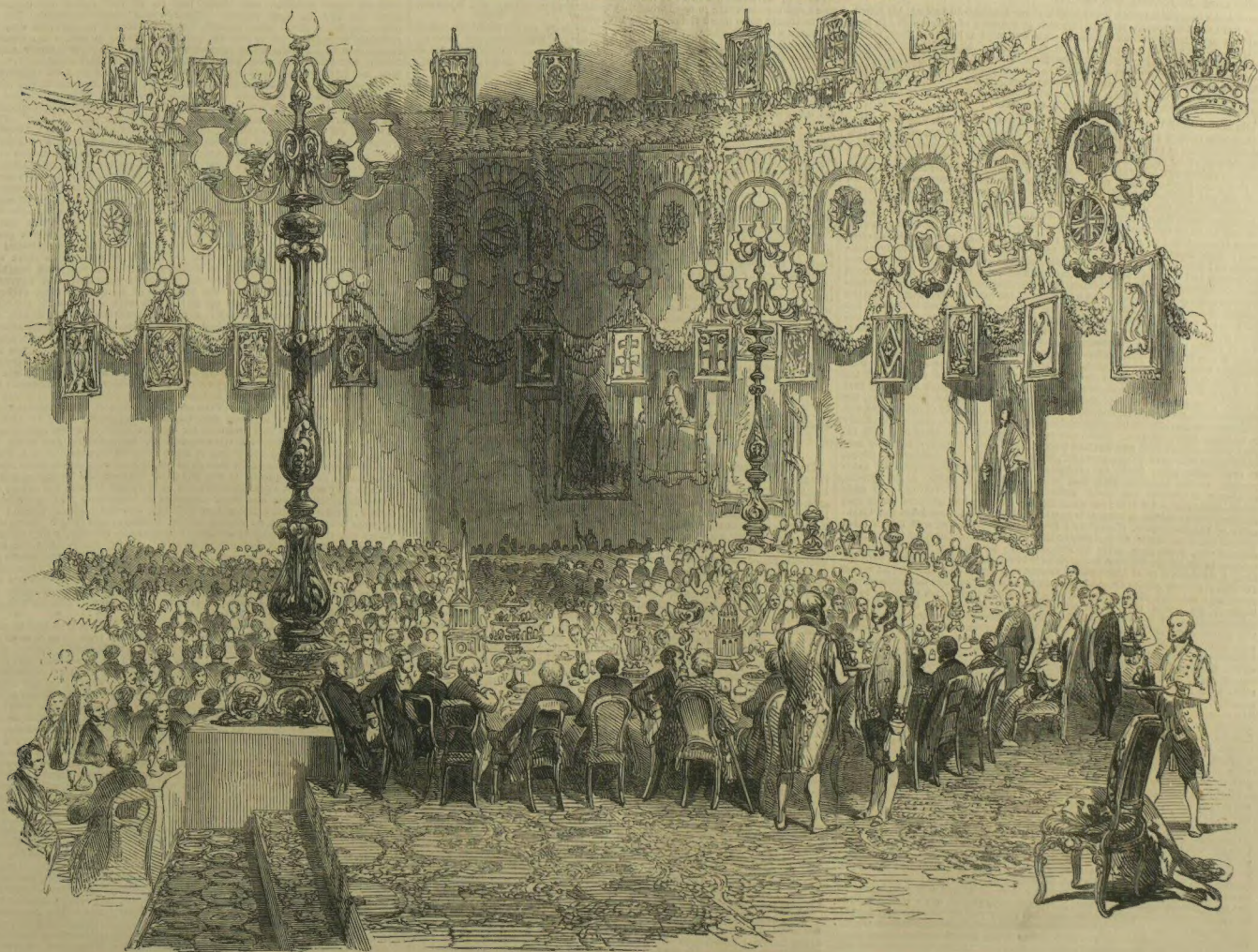
An immense block of coal is now being raised for the Exhibition, from the Speedwell pit, one of the mines of Richard Barrow, Esq., Staveley, Derbyshire, on the estate of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire. The dimensions of the block after being perfectly squared, are—17 feet 6 inches long, 6 feet wide, and 4 feet deep. Its estimated weight is upwards of 16 tons.



GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—SECTIONAL VIEW OF GALLERIES



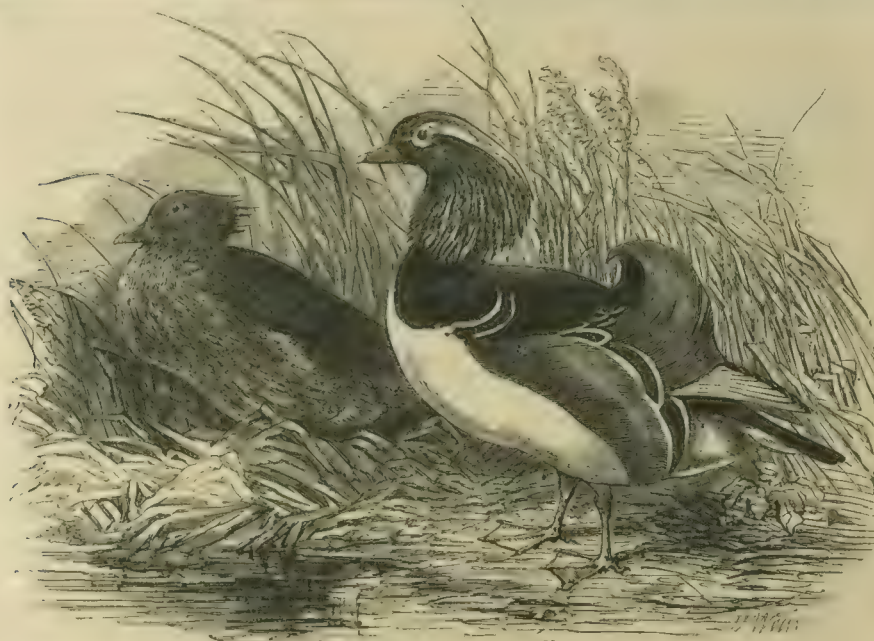
THE OAK DINING-ROOM.—THE EARL OF CLARENDON AND THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.



THE BANQUET IN THE KING'S ROOM, MANSION-HOUSE DUBLIN.

House of Commons you will get the ballot. (Hear.) Then as respects the duration of Parliaments. Why, in all the constitutions made on the continent of

White to play, and mate in four moves.



MANDARIN DUCKS.

A meeting of the passengers was held on board the steamer, at which resolutions were passed in testimony of the unwearied care of Captain West and the other officers, in bringing the ship safely into port.

The Cork papers attach importance to this accident, from its likelihood of proving advantageous to the port, by showing the amount of skill and enterprise now existing in Cork. About eleven o'clock on Wednesday night a despatch was sent up to the establishment of Messrs. Lecky and Beale, informing them that the *Atlantic* had come into Queenstown with her machinery disabled; and, at an early hour next morning, Mr. Lecky went on board to ascertain the amount of injury done. The principal repair requisite was the construction of a main shaft. Captain West then arranged for time to consult his correspondents in Liverpool and Glasgow. It was suggested that Haulbowline would be an excellent

position for the repairs; and our Artist's sketch shows the steamer being towed to her moorings there.

The injury which the *Atlantic* has sustained, in addition to the breaking of the shaft, is confined to the loss of her bowsprit and jibboom, together with much damage to the paddle-wheels and boxes, those at the starboard side especially being almost completely destroyed. We regret to state, also, that one of the firemen had his leg fractured by a portion of the broken machinery.

MANDARIN DUCK AND DRAKE.

This beautiful pair of ornamental water-fowl has been brought from Whampoa, in China, and may be seen at Messrs. Baker's Pheasantry King's-road, Chelsea.

The Drake is the most gorgeous in plumage of all water-fowl. The top of the head is black, which extends down the nape of the neck; below is a clear white line, passing over the eye down the base of the bill, which is of a deep bright rose-colour; the cheeks and the long pointed feathers of the neck are of a bright orange brown; the upper part of the breast and back of a glossy black, the lower white; the two raised feathers of the wing are orange brown; the flight feathers are white and black; the tail is black, except underneath, which is white; the sides of the breast are greenish orange, margined by a clear white fine line; the legs are deep pink. From the middle of June to the middle of September, the Drake assumes the colour of the Duck, which is a dull olive brown; he is very pugnacious, and quite a tyrant over all the other aquatic birds.

These Ducks are the only pair in England, and so scarce that his Royal Highness Prince Albert has honoured Mr. Baker's exhibition of poultry, at Chelsea, by a visit on purpose to see them. Mr. Baker, we understand, has refused 120 guineas for these Mandarin Ducks, which he intends keeping for exhibition.

The Mandarin Duck, in many respects, resembles the Summer Duck, and is even more beautiful and velvety in its plumage. We learn from Richardson's very useful "Rural Handbook" (Domestic Fowl and Ornamental Poultry), just published, that the Mandarin has been bred in the Zoological Society's Gardens. "Mr. Yarrell," says Mr. Richardson, "recommends that this species and its congeners should have grain which has been steeped in water until macerated given to them in confinement; others recommend barley-mixed with water, and sopped bread, and similar mixtures. I would recommend a variety of soft food for these birds, as most conducive to health; an occasional supply of insects and larvae will also be useful, where they cannot pick up such food for themselves."

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

MICKLEHAM CHURCH.

The picturesque environs of Dorking, in Surrey, present comparatively few antiquarian attractions; and, certainly, neither of them surpasses in interest the ancient Church of Mickleham, a road-side village about a mile north of Box-hill, in the romantic Vale of Norbury.

This Church is of Norman origin, and affords an excellent specimen of that style. The following extract from the "Domesday Book" shows that a Church existed here at the date of the general survey, 1081—1086:—"Nigel holds of the Bishop (of Bales) Mickleham. Ainsfric held it of King Edward. There is a Church and two acres of meadow." From the reference thus made to King Edward, it is at least highly probable that a Church existed here in his time, 1041—1066. The size and proportion of the edifice, and also the ornaments to the windows and arch of the chancel, very nearly correspond to those of several churches which are known to be very ancient; while the absence of ornament in the arch of the western doorway would seem to bespeak it of earlier date than some more enriched specimens; for example, that of the Chapter House of the Oxford Cathedral (formerly St. Frideswide), which it otherwise much resembles, and which is supposed by Dallaway to have been built by King Ethelred, in 1004.

Being much dilapidated, the Church at Mickleham was restored and beautified in 1823, at a cost of upwards of £2000, under the able superintendence of P. F. Robinson, Esq.

In this repair and restoration, the nave was rebuilt, and the arches separating the nave from the south aisle were erected to correspond with the chancel arch before mentioned; and square piers were substituted for the circular shafts of the original building, in compliance with the wishes of the inhabitants. A gallery, to accommodate some of the principal inhabitants, was also erected in the south aisle, and the building ornamented throughout. In pulling down the nave, the original plastering was discovered, and the date (1018) found marked in red



THE UNITED STATES MAIL STEAM-SHIP THE "ATLANTIC" BEING TOWED TO HER MOORINGS OPPOSITE HAULBOWLINE, QUEENSTOWN.

colour. This, although not of itself satisfactory, may at least be regarded as corroborative of the great antiquity of the edifice.

About eleven years since, a north aisle was added, which also contains a gallery, and is ornamented to correspond with that on the opposite side. At the east end of the north aisle is situated the Norbury pew, which existed in the former building. It consists of a small sepulchral chapel, and contains a fine altar-tomb to Wylliam Wyddowsoun.

DEATH OF THE "ROYAL CENTENARIAN," AT WEST COWES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

On Saturday last, died Mrs. Mary Read, at the advanced age of 102 years, better known to the "Royal Centenarian" from her having been honoured, on her supposed one hundredth anniversary, with an interview with the Sovereign and Royal Family during their sojourn at Osborne House, in December, 1849.

Mary Read had been twice married, and had given birth to eleven children. Her maiden name was Griffin; she was born on the 21st December, 1748 or 1749, her parents residing then at Durlay, in the neighbourhood of Gosport. At the early age of 17 she was married at Fawley, on the borders of the New Forest, to Mr. John Randall, the master of a coasting vessel, by whom she had three children; he died at the age of 28. In the following year she was married, at Holyrood Church, Southampton, to her late husband, Mr. William Read, foreman shipwright at Hythe building-yard. By this marriage she had eight children. We learn that she was left by her first husband in comfortable circumstances, and that at the time of her second union she kept a grocer's shop, and possessed a stock of £300. About 60 years ago she settled in the Isle of Wight, and subsequently lived at West Cowes.

There appears to have been some little doubt as to the old lady's precise age: she was always under the impression of being two years older than above stated, from the circumstance that her eldest son by the first union died in 1814, at the age of fifty years, and that she was just eighteen at his birth; this would give her 104 years. She retained full possession of all her faculties to the last moment; her eyesight was remarkably good, and she never needed spectacles.

On her visit to Osborne, in December, 1849, she walked to the Ferry, from her abode in Mary-terrace, a distance of 300 yards. It was thought that the interview with the Sovereign would prove too exciting for her aged frame: but such was not the case; for, having had a week's anticipation of it, she got up several mornings early, and dressed herself each day, anxiously awaiting the Royal pleasure to attend. At the interview, the Centenarian was presented with gratuities to the extent of seven pounds. Her great age, and the humble circumstances of her daughter-in-law, were well known to the neighbours and inhabitants, on whose bounty she has subsisted for many years; and, in justice to her memory, she was not wanting in gratitude for the kindness shown to her.

On the morning of her decease she arose as usual, and proceeded to her work—that of making a patchwork quilt, which she had nearly completed. In the afternoon, after drinking a cup of tea, at half-past three, she retired to take her accustomed nap, but it proved the sleep of death. She expired at half-past five o'clock, without any suffering, during the

momentary absence of her daughter-in-law, who, on returning from the adjoining room to her bed-side, not hearing her breathe hard, as she generally did, found life extinct.

The deceased is to be buried at West Cowes churchyard, where a stone is to be erected to mark the grave of "the Royal Centenarian."



"THE ROYAL CENTENARIAN," MRS. READ, OF WEST COWES.

MICKLEHAM CHURCH, SURREY.

FINE ARTS.

"DON SCIPIO RELATING HIS ADVENTURES TO GIL BLAS AND HIS WIFE."

This charming composition is one of Mr. Uwins's contributions to the Collection of Drawings by the Sketching Society, now on view at Mr. Hogarth's, in the Haymarket. The scene is graceful and highly poetic throughout: it has a delightful air of quiet and listening, characteristic of story-telling; and, altogether, the romantic incident is here very successfully treated. It is thus related in the "Adventures;" the chapter, "What followed the Marriage of Gil Blas and the fair Antonia. The beginning of Scipio's History."

On the very next day after my marriage, the Lords of Leyva returned to Valencia, after having given me a thousand new marks of friendship; so that my secretary and I remained in the house with our wives and servants only.

The care which both of us took to please the ladies was not ineffectual: in a little time I inspired my wife with as much love for me as I had for her; and Scipio made his spouse forget the sorrows which he had made her suffer. Beatrice, who had a pliant obliging temper, easily in-estimated herself into the favour, and gained the confidence of her mistress. In short, we all four agreed to admiration, and began to enjoy a situation worthy of envy. All our days glided away in the most agreeable amusements. Antonia was naturally grave, but Beatrice and I were very gay; and had we been otherwise, Scipio's presence was enough to keep off melancholy. He was an incomparable fellow for society: one of those comical creatures, whose appearance alone can make a company merry.

One day we took a whim, after dinner, to go and take a siesta in the most agreeable place of the wood, when my secretary was in such a good humour that he banished all desire of sleeping by his merry discourse. "Hold thy tongue, friend," said I, "or, if thou art resolved to keep us from taking our nap, entertain us with some story worthy of our attention."

"With all my heart," he answered; he shall recount the history of King Pelagius?" "I would rather hear thy own," I replied; "but that is a pleasure thou hast not thought proper to give me since we have lived together, nor ever wilt, I suppose." "And what is the reason?" said he. "If I have not recounted my own history, it was because you never expressed the least desire to hear it; it is not, therefore, my fault that you are ignorant of my adventures; and if you are in the least curious to know them, I am ready to satisfy your curiosity." Antonia, Beatrice, and I took him at his word, and disposed ourselves in order to hear his narration, which could not miss of having a good effect, either in diverting or lulling us asleep.



DON SCIPIO RELATING HIS ADVENTURES TO GIL BLAS AND HIS WIFE.—FROM A SKETCH BY T. UWINS, R.A.

TESTIMONIALS PRESENTED TO SIR EDWARD AND LADY GAMBIER.

We have much pleasure in recording the excellent feeling expressed by the native community of Madras on the recent retirement of Sir Edward J. Gambier from the Chief Justiceship of that important settlement, on which occasion a very complimentary address was presented to him, signed by upwards of ten thousand of the natives, accompanied with the splendid Testimonial shown in the Illustration. It consists of a large centre-piece, formed as follows:—A triangular plinth, richly ornamented, supports three Oriental palm trees, from which issue six branches for lights, surmounted by a basket for flowers. Around the stem are three figures—two, of natives in the act of presenting the address to Sir Edward. On the front of the plinth is engraved:—

To the Honorable Sir EDWARD JOHN GAMBIER, Knt., Chief Justice of Madras. Presented by the Hindu Community of Madras, in testimony of their sense of the integrity, zeal, and patience with which, during a period of thirteen years, he discharged the important functions of a British Judge in the Supreme Court of Judicature at this Settlement. 1850.

This handsome piece of plate is thirty inches high, weighs about 550 ounces, and is highly creditable to the taste and skill of Messrs. Hamiltons, of Calcutta, by whom it has been manufactured.

An equally flattering mark of esteem has also been presented to Lady Gambier, from the European ladies of Madras. This consists of a tripod centre-piece, with shaped triangular pedestal, richly ornamented with the Brahmin lotus, supporting a palm tree, encircled with the vine, supporting a palm trellis basket for flowers. On the pedestal are three figures, Music, Painting, and Dancing. It is twenty-seven inches high, and weighs about 180 ounces. On two sides of the pedestal are engraved:—

1850. Presented to Lady GAMBIER, on the occasion of her departure from Madras, after a lengthened residence of thirteen years, as a token of their affectionate regard and esteem, by M. D. Sionhouse, J. Montgomery, C. Morehead, C. A. Boyd, M. H. Montgomerie, A. H. Key, E. J. Arbuthnot, on behalf of themselves and the following ladies (above sixty).

On the third side are her Ladyship's arms, &c.

This piece of plate has been executed in a chaste style by Mr. Beavan, of Marylebone-street, Piccadilly.

MUSIC.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

At the eighteenth annual general meeting, it appeared from the accounts, that the receipts were £285 14s. 3d., and the payments £4725 4s. 9d., leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer of £200 9s. 6d. Amongst the principal items were £1049 subscriptions, and £3803 for proceeds of concerts; in the expenditure was the sum of £245 for music for the concerts and for the library. The society has £1000 in the Three per Cent. Consols, and the estimated value of their other property is £1350. Seventeen performances were given from Christmas, 1849, to Christmas, 1850; ten of which were subscription concerts, and the others repetition ones. The concert for the King's College Hospital funds, given by the society, produced £200. The report of Mr. Brower, the hon. secretary, referred to the recent improvements in the hall, achieved chiefly through the indefatigable zeal of Mr. Bowley, the librarian, to whom a special vote of thanks was given; as also to Mr. Costa, the conductor, not only for his exertions in the orchestra, but for his general zeal to promote the prosperity

of the society. The continued success of this institution must be a matter of rejoicing to every amateur; but it is to be hoped the committee will not slumber on their well-deserved popularity; there are many great works of the ancient school yet to be produced, and it is also well worthy of the deliberation of the executive who their new compositions by living masters might not be essayed.

On Thursday evening last, Handel's "Israel in Egypt" was performed for the first time this season. The solos were sung by Miss Birch, Miss Ellis Birch, Miss Dolby, Mr. Manvers, Mr. Machin, and Mr. Whitehouse. Since the revival of this sublime oratorio, under Costa's direction, the integrity of the original score has been respected. Mr. Brown-smith, the organist, played the organ part, written by Mendelssohn for the edition published by the Handel Society. The choral power is developed in the "Israel in Egypt" with stupendous results; the solos are few and far between; the chain of events is continuous in choral vastness, in which the mighty conception of the composer is only rivalled by the coherency of the treatment and by the symmetry of the design. With the general pathetic tone the "Israel" does not rank with the "Messiah;" but few musicians are disposed to dispute the opinion of Mendelssohn, who regarded it as one of the "greatest and most lasting musical works." As now performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society, under Costa's inspiring direction, the "Israel in Egypt" is a marvellous musical portraiture, so truthful, poetical, and intense is the execution.

MR. BALFE'S CONCERT

The benefit concert, originally announced to be given at Her Majesty's Theatre, took place, on Monday night, at Exeter-hall, which was crowded in every part. Mr. Balfé was cordially greeted when he appeared to conduct his "Falstaff" overture. The other instrumental pieces were Lindpaintner's "Battle Overture" and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." Ernst was the lion instrumentalist, and created the usual sensation in his "Ottello" fantasia, Hungarian airs, and "Carnival de Venise." M. Alexandre Billet played Mendelssohn's Rondo Brilliant in E flat with sure mechanism, but frigidity; and Mr. Gerhard Taylor, whilst he astonished the auditory by his harp execution, caused a feeling of regret that he had not selected better music. The first appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, since their marriage, was made a special demonstration, and everything they sang was warmly applauded. Mlle. F. Labache in Scotch ballads, Mlle. Angri, Signori S. Tamburini and F. Labache, in Italian music, were likewise special favourites; but Mlle. Lucchi, the "celebrated female tenor," as she was wrongly styled, who made her debut on the occasion, encountered a most vivid display of antagonistic opinions. This was scarcely fair, for she has a sympathetic contralto organ; and, if she will correct the exaggeration of her



PLATE PRESENTED TO SIR EDWARD GAMBIER.



PLATE PRESENTED TO LADY GAMBIER.

NEW MUSIC

REEVES'S WATER COLOURS, prepared with a medium of pure wax in lieu of gum, which adds greatly to their permanency, brilliancy, and easy flowing qualities. REEVES'S PURE CUMBERLAND LEAD DRAWING PENCILS. Manufactory, 113, Chancery Lane, London.

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CAUTION.—FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS
cannot be purchased of any Hosiery or Drapers, and can, therefore, be obtained only at 185, STRAND. They are made in two qualities, the first of which is 6s the half-dozen; the second, 3s the

FORAZZA SHIRT.—CAPPER and WATERS, Inventors, 26, Regent-street, St. James's.—Gentle

can have the Corset, or any other form of shirt, by sending measure, taken tight, round neck, round chest, waist, wrist, and height of wearer.—Excellent Long Cloth Shirts, with fine Linen Stripes, Collars, and Wriste, from 6s. 6d. to 12s. Linen Shirts, 10s. to 15s. each. Additional charge for Dress Fronts, 2s. to 4s. Sample shirts are sent, carriage paid, to any part of the kingdom, on receipt of money order for price of the Shirt, with addition of two sailings, which will be sent by the first.

such addition is deducted from the amount of the set.

LINENDRAPERS TO THE QUEEN.
Established in 1778.
INFANTS' BASSINETTES and BASKETS,
and LADIES' WEDDING and GENERAL OUTFITS for
HOME, INDIA and the COLONIES.

are supplied by
JOHN CAPPER and SON, 69, GRACECHURCH-STREET, LONDON,
in a Separate Department,
under competent Female Superintendence. The prices are economical,
the materials and needwork excellent.

BABY LINEN, of superior work, decidedly **CHEAP.**
Articles of £2 sent throughout the Kingdom free of all carriage charges.

ANNUAL SALE OF FANCY GOODS.—
The fancy articles remaining on hand from last season will, as

usual, be disposed of, at extremely reduced prices. Silks, in neat ample styles, from 1s 6jd a yard; rich damasks, at 2½ guineas the dress; silk velvets, for dresses, in a few colours, as low as 4s 6d, 11½ guineas, and fancy materials, in a variety of kinds, beginning at 6jd a yard. Barège and Cashmere shawls, from 7s 6d; grenadines, 10s 6d to 13s 6d. Mantles extremely cheap. Lace dresses, a little out of condition, from 12s 6d upwards. Collars, habit-abits.

also greatly reduced. Ribbons, at 6½d and 9½d, which have been sold as high as from 1s to 7s. Fancy handkerchiefs, ties, and a large variety of other goods, marked at such prices as must ensure an immediate clearance.—REGENT-HOUSE, (ALLISON'S), 240 and 242 Regent-street.

the lightest, and the most elegant covering. It is suitable for the bed, the couch, or the carriage; and its comfort to invalids cannot be too highly appreciated. To be seen in great variety, and lists of prices and sizes sent free, by post, on application to HEAL and SON'S Bedding Factory, 196 (opposite the Chapel), Tottenham-court-road.

BLANKET for CHARITY.—HEAL and SON beg to offer Blankets for the purposes of charity, of the following weights, sizes, and prices:—

1½ yards by 2	yards, 3½ lb weight,	4s 6d per pair.
1½ "	" "	5 "
2 "	" "	6s 2d "
2 "	" "	8s 0d "

HEAL and SON'S List of Bedding, containing full particulars of

NEW SHOW-ROOMS for BEDSTEADS.
—HEAL and SON have erected some extensive Warehouses.

the purpose of having every description of Bedstead. In Iron, their bed will include every sort manufactured, from the cheap stump, for servants' use, to the handsomely-ornamented tubular-pillared canopy; well as Brass Bedsteads of every shape and pattern; and in Wood, instead, their rooms are sufficiently extensive to allow them to fit a variety, both in polished birch and mahogany, of four-post, canopy, and French, and also of innaned bedsteads—in fact, to keep

stock every sort of bedstead that is made. They have also a general assortment of furniture chintzes, damasks, and dimities, so as to render air stock complete for the furnishing of bedsteads as well as bedding. Without attempting to compete with the prices at which the lowest class of furniture is sold, and which is fit for no useful purpose, their air stock will be found to be priced on the same principle by which air bedding trade has, during the last thirty years, been so success-

ly extended; and the goods, whether of a plain and simple pattern of a handsome and more expensive character, are of well-seasoned materials, sound workmanship, and warranted.—Heal and Son's List Bedding, containing full particulars of weights, sizes, and prices of every description of Bedding, sent free by post, on application to their store, 198 (opposite the Chapel), Tottenham-court-road, London.

LOSS of TEETH.—A new and very curious invention connected with Dental Surgery has been introduced by Mr. HOWARD, of 17, George-street, Hanover-square; it is the production of an entirely NEW DESCRIPTION of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble natural teeth as not to be distinguishable from the originals by the most

over. They will never change colour or decay, and will be found
superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not re-
quire the extraction of any Teeth or Roots, or any painful operation,
and will support and preserve the teeth that are loose, and is guar-
anteed to restore articulation and mastication. The Invention is of
importance to many persons, and those who are interested in it
will avail themselves of Mr. Howard's New Discovery.

COG, COLD, and NIGHT AIR.—For every one—the Healthy and the delicate—For gentlemen, a few wraps of peculiar convenience, in size, adjustment, and use—Ladies, elegantly adapting this protection in Terry, Silk, Cashmere, &c. For Invalids as a Respirator.—“It will no doubt supersede the cumbersome machines of the past.”

LABRATORY URGAN and CHEST PROTECTOR, wholesale of the
sentences, 10, Princess-street, Regent-street; retail, of Bridge and
270, Regent-street; Butler and Co., 4, Cheapside; and of the
special chemists, hostlers, &c. in the United Kingdom.

PARKE'S LEE PILLS.—The great merit of this invaluable Medicine may be comprised in three simple but effective words, "IT CURES ALL!" and, out of some thousands of cases which medical practitioners have pronounced hopeless, these Pills effected the most perfect cures.—Sold by E. Edwards, 67, St. Paul Churchyard; Barclay and Sons, Farringdon-street; Sutton and Co., St. Churchyard, London; J. and R. Baimes and Co., Edinburgh; and

Wholesale and Co., Manchester; also retail in every town in the United Kingdom, by most respectable Medicine Vendors, in boxes, a 6d, 2s 9d, and 11s.

THE GENERAL REPORT of the BRITISH COLLEGE of HEALTH, New-road, London, for 1951, is now

ry, and may be had gratis, on application, of the agents for the sale of Dr. Morrison's Vegetable Universal Medicine.—January 4, 1861.

GENERAL RANDON.

GENERAL RANDON, the newly-appointed French Minister of War, was born at Grenoble, on the 25th of March, 1795. He entered the army as



GENERAL RANDON, THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF WAR.

ensign, in the 93rd Regiment of Foot, in 1812; in the following year he became lieutenant, was appointed aide-de-camp to General Marchand, and was promoted to a captaincy towards the close of the year. He afterwards entered the cavalry service, where he attained the rank of major in 1830. He was next appointed Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Chasseurs d'Afrique; in 1841, adjutant-general; and lieutenant-general in 1847. He was next called to the office of Director-General of the Algerian Department of the Office of the Minister of War; and then appointed Commander of the Third Military Division at Metz, where he was stationed when the President called him to his Ministry, to fill the important post of Minister of War.

General Randon has rendered eminent service to his country. He made the campaign of Russia in 1812; served in the Grand Army in 1813; in the Army of Lyons in 1814 and 1815; and in Africa from 1833 to 1847. He was wounded with two shots at the battle of Lutzen, in 1813; one in the left arm, the other in the right leg.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

ALTHOUGH the discussions in the Chamber of Representatives have excited much interest of late, balls and soirées have not been neglected. The principal theatres alone have felt the effects of the Ministerial crisis. The balls of the Presidency, on Thursdays, have never been more animated than of late. Ball dresses have never been so richly ornamented; however, the toilettes are still graceful, in spite of their tendency to showiness.

Head-dresses for balls are of great variety, in shape, shade, and composition. Bunches have superseded the long and falling branches; and, above all, is the interesting of flowers with ribbons. The ribbon sometimes forms the chief part of the head-dress, and the flowers fall in clusters on the shoulders; at other times, the ribbons fall as low as the bodice, while the flowers encircle the face. Here follow some of the most recent head-dresses.

Wreaths of red transparent gelatine flowers, green leaves, and slight green stems, are much in request. We recommend the gelatine wreaths, as being of the only substance combining transparency with solidity; the globes of glass are liable to break, whilst the gelatine is not damaged by dancing. Wreaths of small white fruit, with the foliage of laley green; the same, with golden fruit, and same foliage; wreath of green roses, with brown leaves; and a host of wreaths, with a mixed foliage of green and brown, with drops of gold, garnet, or coral, fitted up with great taste, and falling very low, are popular.

Hall Dresses are still open in front, cut square, not very low behind, body ending in a point, trimmed with a *berthe*, terminating in the point. Thus far, Fashion is sober enough; but the skirts are frequently covered with ornaments. Two skirts or flounces are no longer sufficient; a net dress is trimmed with two net flounces cut out into deep indentations; each flounce is trimmed with two puffs, and a third flounce is worn. The second net skirt is cut out at the bottom with deep indentations, like those on the flounces, trimmed with three flounces of ribbon and two puffs. All this is somewhat heavy; nevertheless, the effect is very handsome.

For Walking Dresses, we were not wrong in predicting the skirts to the bodice as likely to become favourites. The most in vogue now are the square skirts, four on each side, disposed as follows: two from the point of the bodice to the seam under the arm, and two from the seam under the arm to the seam down the middle of the back. These skirts are generally square cut, trimmed with lace, flat or gathered, and matching the other ornaments of the bodice. Another kind are the rounded skirts, with large indentations, cut out in smaller but similar indentations, which ornament the flounces fixed to the skirt of the dress.

Among the fashionable novelties, we cannot omit mentioning a little stool for the feet, square or round, harmonising with the richness of the rest of the furniture: this footstool is a little house for the favourite "King Charles" or "Blenheim," belonging to the mistress of the house; the curtains, fringes, &c., are of silk, and add to the elegance of the little habitation.

We add the following from *Le Follet*—

Among the many pretty *toilettes* that have appeared at the fashionable *soirées*, our attention has been particularly attracted by a coiffure equally novel and *distinguee*. It was composed of three brown velvet bands crossing over the head. These were sprinkled with small diamond stars, and united on each side under a *chou*, formed of narrow brown velvet, fastened in the middle with a daisy of diamonds. From this *chou* three ends of velvet descend, each terminated with a light fringe, sprinkled with diamonds. This elegant coiffure was accompanied by a robe of pink flowered brocade, with a double skirt, the top one raised on one side by a bouquet of brown and white wild roses. A magnificent *berthe* of Venetian point-lace was fastened on the front of the body by a bouquet, to match that on the skirt, and at the waist with a knot, and ends of diamonds.

A very original coiffure is composed of a gold and Venetian lace, placed square over the head in the style of the Neapolitan coiffures. The two sides of this are raised by a tuft of wild poppies and blue bells, mixed with long gold corn, falling over the neck a little behind the head.

Another coiffure, of the same description, is composed of a *résille* formed with pink chenille, and beads each side of the *résille* raised on each side with tufts of long leaves of pink chenille, mixed with light bunches of currants formed of white beads. This pretty coiffure was worn with a robe of pink tulle d'Italie, the over-skirt raised on each side, and the middle by a chain of pearl rings, terminated at bottom with a knot mixed of leaves of pink velvet. The body is open, square in front, and crossed with lacings of beads. The sleeves are very short, and covered with *dentelles* of pink tulle, the last of which falls over the arm.

THE LATE WILLIAM HOLMES, ESQ.

This gentleman, the well-known politician, and long the "whipper-in" of the Tory party, was born in 1779, a native of the county of Sligo, and



THE LATE WILLIAM HOLMES, ESQ.

the son of Thomas Holmes, Esq., of Farn Hill, an opulent brewer, who realised considerable property, and filled the office of High-Sheriff of the county of Sligo in 1810. After completing his education at Trinity College, Dublin, Mr. William Holmes entered the army, served in the West Indies, and was military secretary there to Sir Thomas Hislop. In 1807 he retired from the service; and, in 1808, obtained a seat in the House of Commons. From that period until 1841, with the exception of one interval, viz. from 1832 to 1837, the hon. gentleman continued uninterruptedly a member of the Legislature, representing successively Grampound, Tregony, Bishop's Castle, Haslemere, and Berwick; and supporting, with undeviating consistency, the High Tory party. For many years he held the appointment of Treasurer of the Ordnance. Mr. Holmes was by the side of Mr. Perceval when he fell by the hand of Bellingham; and he also happened to have been within a few yards of Mr. Huskisson when that lamented statesman met his violent death.

In 1807, Mr. Holmes married Ellen, daughter of John Tew, Esq., of Dublin, and widow of the Rev. Sir James Strange, Bart., of Tynam Abbey, county Armagh, by whom he leaves a son, Thomas Knox Holmes.

The hon. gentleman, whose health had been gradually declining, died on the 28th ult., deeply regretted.

CURIOSITIES.

THE FOUNDRESS' CUP, CHRIST COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

This elegant Cup, belonging to Christ College, Cambridge, is presumed to have been the property of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, the



THE FOUNDRESS' CUP, CHRIST COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

foundress of the College, and mother of King Henry VII. The Cup is peculiarly graceful in its outline; the ornaments are of extremely simple character, being chiefly semicircles burnished on a threaded ground, on base, shaft, bowl, and cover. There are, however, cable and a few other mouldings interspersed. The edge of the cover fits over the plain lip of the bowl, and has an embattled cresting round it, thence tapering in pyramidal form; its apex is surrounded by a thin plate of metal of octagonal form. Above this, the cover rises in the form of an inverted cone, surrounded by an upright portion octagonal, enriched with lozenges and quatrefoils at the sides, and having pinnacles at the angles. On the top is an enamelled shield with armorial bearings rudely painted; but from them we should ourselves hesitate in ascribing them positively to be those of the noble lady to whom tradition assigns the Cup. The Cup is 10 inches high; and at the lip, it is 8 inches in diameter; and the base is 4 inches in diameter.

The authorship of Sir E. Seaward's Narrative has been matter of dispute in the *Quarterly Review* and other literary journals. We (says the *Bristol Journal*) shall be able, ere long, to prove that our late highly respected fellow-citizen, Dr. Porter, was the writer. We hear that a tablet to the memory of Dr. Porter and his sisters, Jane and Anna Maria, the eminent authoresses, is about to be erected in Bristol Cathedral.

London: Printed and published at the Office, 138, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement, Dances, in the County of Middlesex, by WILLIAM LITTLE, 138, Strand, at 10 o'clock.—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1851.

estimates of his estimates for the next year's expenditure as compared with the estimates of last year. (Hear, hear.) The Government want to see the next year's estimates and the budget, that we may judge of the Government by their estimates, and not by any revenue they have reached. (Cheers.) I have not since the close of Parliament addressed any audience upon general political topics. I have addressed peace meetings, and have been asked to do so from time to time. I have not had so wide a range of discussion and observation has been permitted as is now open to us in this assembly. I very much regret it, because I should like to have said a few words upon a controversy which has been raging in this country for two or three months, and which has been practically the subject of the day, not to refer to it as I speak to you only as a politician. For the last two or three months there has not been a calm in this country. We have heard of a great political calm, but there has been no calm. On the contrary, there has been an agitation. It has been a calm, but it has been a calm of the kind which is called a "calm before the storm." It has been the attention of the leading public prints. I need not tell you that the question is that which is called "The Papal Aggression." The remark I wish to make is, that the discussion of this topic has overlaid, arrested, and smothered for a time every political topic. In this country the public mind enters into no other topic than this. It has prevented the public mind from occupying itself upon fiscal questions and questions affecting reform in the representation, and other questions which politicians have had for many years at heart, so that we approach the meeting of Parliament without the opportunity being afforded or taken by the country gentlemen to sign the petition of the country gentlemen, and without the opportunity which you will bear in mind that when we meet in Parliament, our time will be taken by the very much occupied with the discussion of this same question; for, if we may believe the Rev. Hugh Stowell in what he told us at a very large assembly of bishops, every political, social, fiscal, or reformatory question has been smothered by the Papal aggression. (Applause.) I have said enough to you, I think, to show you the importance of the question. What I want to ask is, "Is this a question that can be settled by politicians?" (Loud cheers.) I may settle it in my own mind as a Protestant, and as a Protestant I may have my opinions. But I want to ask, if there is any reason why religious questions should not be removed out of the hands of politicians, and placed in the hands of the people, as Mr. Carlisle, when he honoured me by coming out of the Cabinet to deliver an address to the Mechanics' Institution of Leeds, made a remark which, coming at this time, I think expressed more than words would entirely do, when he said, "do confess

THE ENGLISH NUMISMATIC MEDAL.—This "Royal road" to the knowledge of English coins has lately been issued by Mr. Webster, the medallist, at Russell-street, Covent-garden. Within the compass of a crown-piece, it contains the history of the Sovereigns of England from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, with the respective likenesses as examples.

The medals are arranged in half-crown, shilling, sixpence, and penny series; and each struck ten and twenty-shilling pieces, which I struck last year, it, this medal must prove invaluable as a reference; and even the more experienced collector, unless he have a very retentive memory, may find it a serviceable pocket companion. It has been executed by Mr. W. J. Taylor, of Little Queen-street, Holborn, where, also, the medal may be procured.

THE MANUFACTURE OF GUN-BARRELS, AT BIRMINGHAM.



THE STEAM HAMMER.

This manufacture of fire-arms is one of the most extensive trades carried on at Birmingham; and in all its various departments—of stock, lock, and barrel—is estimated to give employment to between 6000 and 7000 persons. During the war, happily ended by the peace of Waterloo, Birmingham could not manufacture fire-arms with sufficient rapidity to meet the necessities of the Government; although for a period of many years it turned out, according to a phrase still repeated in the town, "a gun a minute, night and day, Saturdays and Sundays," or 525,000 per annum. The Government, therefore, established two factories of its own, one at Enfield, the other at Lewisham, the former of which is still in existence. Though the trade since those times has greatly diminished, Birmingham still manufactures immense quantities of fire-arms of all descriptions; and supplies the gun-makers of every part of the kingdom with gun-barrels and gun-locks, which are afterwards fitted together in London and elsewhere. The manufacture of gun-barrels alone, without reference to "lock" or "stock," gives employment to about 1600 persons. A proportion of the gun-barrels thus produced are for the Government and for the East India Company; and another portion are for sporting purposes, for the home and foreign trade; but by far the largest number are manufactured for Africa. The African trade in this article alone supports many hundreds of people. The guns are of the cheapest and commonest description. The orders are received from the merchants of London

and Liverpool, who barter the guns on the African coast for ivory, spices, gold, dust, and other produce. It is asserted that many of these guns find their way to Brazil, and that the Brazilian slave-traders carry on an extensive business with some of the African Kings and Chiefs, by exchanging guns for men. When this abominable traffic was legal in England, a Birmingham gun was the common price for a negro. During the few months that succeeded the French Revolution of February, 1848, there was quite a stir in the gun-trade of Birmingham, in consequence of the demands for fire-arms that came from Sardinia, Sicily, and Denmark; and the manufacturers disposed of large quantities of their old stock at considerably advanced prices, and found constant employment for their work-people at high wages, for about six or seven months.

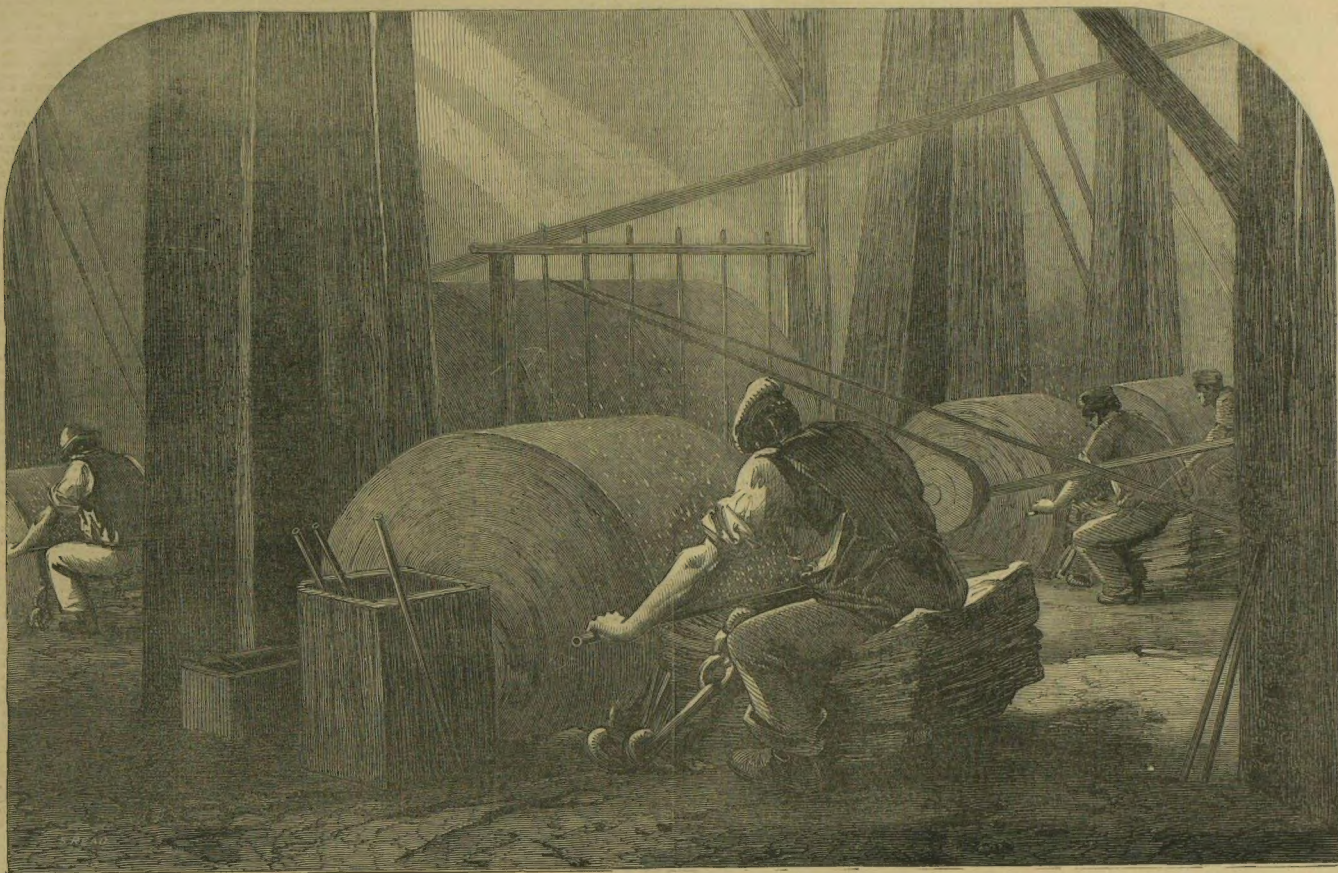
The following details of a visit to the works of Messrs. Sargent, in illustration of the accompanying engravings, are derived from the *Morning Chronicle*:—"On entering the spacious premises (says the writer), I was conducted to a shed, to see in its first stage the raw material of the future gun-barrels. A large heap of loose steel lay upon the ground. Around it were gathered a number of boys and men engaged in sorting the material into smaller heaps, preparatory to its being consigned to the furnace. A process the reverse of turning the sword into the ploughshare was here going on. Among the peaceful articles about to be converted into murderous implements, and forming a very heterogeneous mass, lay innumerable sheets of waste steel from the button and pen manufactories, from which the blanks for buttons and pens had been pierced or

punched out; fragments of steel chains, dog-collars, old knives and forks, steel fenders, hammer-heads, keys, horse-shoes, coach-springs, hinges, iron spoons, steel tubing, fragments of rods from iron bedsteads, and countless other fragments of steel and wrought iron. * * * The first step in the process is the puddling, or making of the iron. Here a picturesque scene presents itself. The odds and ends of iron and steel, having been bound together, are thrown into the furnaces, which glow with a white heat as the iron doors are opened to receive them. Half a score of men, naked to the waist, their breasts, arms, and faces shining in the red light, and trickling with perspiration, wield large and heavy pointed rods of iron, with which they stir the metal in the furnace, every now and then taking out their rods to dip them in an iron tank, full of water, which stands close by. When the metal is sufficiently heated, it is taken out of the forge, by means of long iron mandrels, by the half-naked puddlers, and dragged along the iron pavement, leaving a brilliant trail of sparks behind it. The next operation is to hoist the mass upon the anvil, upon which a stupendous hammer, weighing about three tons and a half, moved by steam power, descends with equable but gigantic force, and gives it a blow which compresses it into about half its previous bulk, and sends the sparks out on every side in a glittering shower. A turn of the workman's hand presents another side to the hammer before it again descends, and two or three blows convert the shapeless mass into a thick bar of iron. This process, however, is but preparatory. In another part of the premises sheets of cold iron, already manufactured, and which have undergone this, and the additional process of rolling at another part of the establishment, are subjected to the jaws of a titanic pair of shears. The sheets are from three-



WELDING THE GUN-BARRELS.

THE MANUFACTURE OF GUN-BARRELS, AT BIRMINGHAM.



GRINDING THE GUN-BARRELS.

quarters of an inch to an inch thick, but are snipped through with as much ease as they were pieces of writing-paper. At every descent of the quiet but powerful shear, a new length is severed. These lengths of cold iron are destined to be made into gun-barrels. Taking one of these lengths, let us trace its progress. After being cut it is cast into the forge, and heated to a white heat. It is taken out of the furnace by a workman called a roller, who, seizing it with his pincers, passes it between two rollers, revolving upon each other, and moved by steam-power—the one concave, and the other convex. Issuing from the side opposite to that which it entered, it is seized by the pincers of another workman, also called a roller, and is found to have curled round in the form of a tube. It is now passed in the same way through a smaller pair of rollers of the same construction, under the pressure of which its edges are brought a little closer than by the first operation. This having been done, a mandril, or long bar of iron is passed through it, and it is once more consigned to the furnace. When of a proper heat it is taken out to undergo the next process, which is that of welding. The business of the welder is to hammer it round and round on the mandril, so as to make the edges cohere, and to make the mould a perfect tube, without seam or jointure. In this state the mould is not above eighteen inches long, and is much too short and thick for a gun-barrel. Once more it is consigned to the fire, whence issuing, the mandril is inserted through it, in order that it may be subjected to the operation of a pair of rollers, which in less than half a minute squeeze it out to about double its former length. While still red hot, it is passed back by the workman through a smaller pair of rollers, and receives a few inches of additional length. On an average, each mould is subjected seven times to this process, at the end of which it is to all outward appearance a gun-barrel, but rude and rough, and requiring much additional labour of a very different kind to complete it.

In this manner are formed the barrels of all the common and cheaper kind of guns, such as are used for the export trade to Africa, and also contract guns of superior kind for the military.

The twisted gun-barrels are formed in a somewhat different manner. The length of Damascus steel is twisted while cold around a mandril, and is then

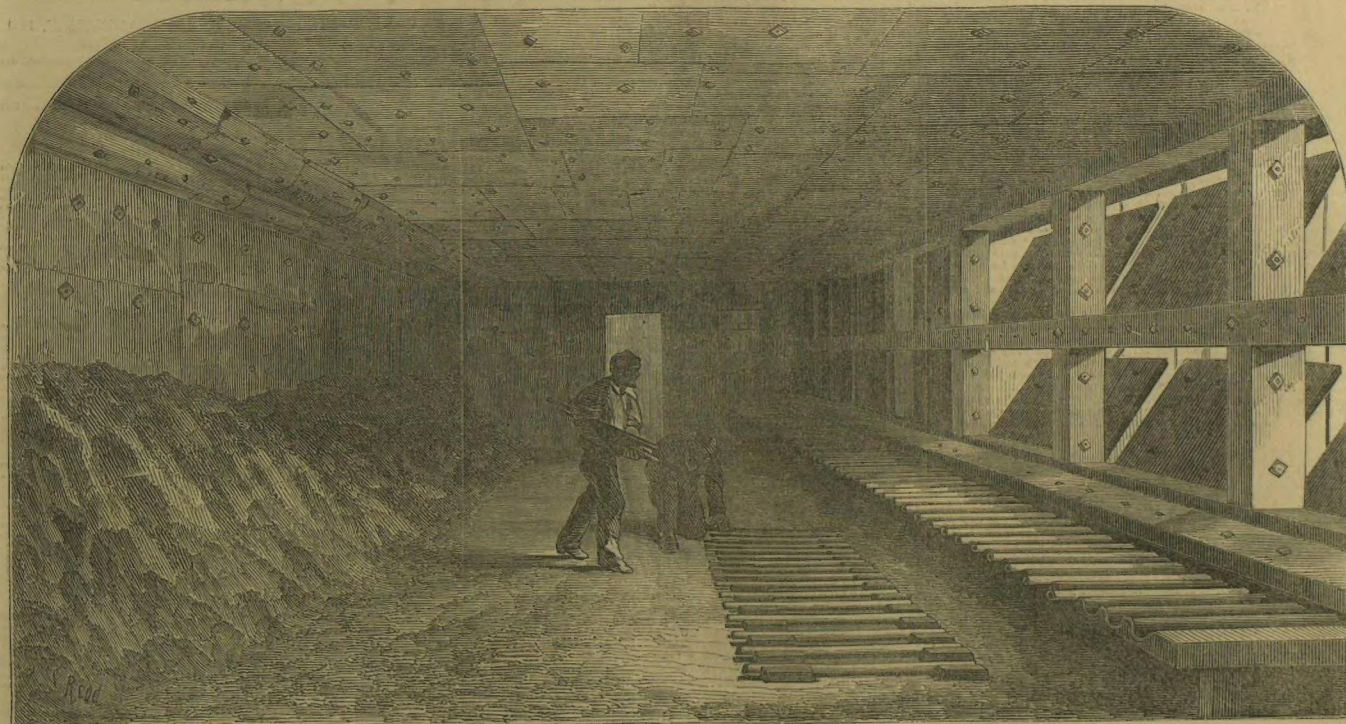
placed in the furnace, till it is of a red heat. It is afterwards welded by the hammer in the manner shown in the Engraving.

The gun-barrel, whether of the common steel or of the twisted Damascus, is now ready for the next operation, which is that of boring. The business of the gun-barrel borer is to clean and polish the interior of the tube, and at the same time to work it to the size or bore required, and to give it a perfectly smooth and even interior surface. This operation is performed by steam-power, and is superintended both by men and women. The process of boring is performed by an angular rod of the hardest steel, which is made to revolve in the barrel by steam-power, and scrapes the inner surface as it turns, till it is as beautifully smooth and polished as a mirror.

The interior of the barrel being thus completed, it is passed into the hands of a workman whose business it is to bring its outer surface into a more proper and slightly condition, for, as yet, it is rough and coarse, as it passed from the hammers of the welders. This is the most picturesque part of the manufacture of a gun. Entering a large and gloomy shed, into which a kind of twilight is all the light that penetrates, the visitor sees a number of immense grind-stones revolving with dizzy velocity. The steam-power, which sets in motion all the other machinery of the "mill," moves these ponderous blocks of sandstone, of which the smallest measures, when new, from four to six feet in diameter, and is two feet wide at the rim. The weight averages three or four tons; and such is the velocity at which they turn, that when it has been wished to stop them, they have been known to continue their revolutions for more than ten minutes after the connecting bands have been displaced. Let the reader picture to his imagination no less than twelve or thirteen of these ponderous stones whirling around at this fearful rate, under a dark and gloomy shed. Let him further picture a constant dripping of water upon them from a tank on the roof, and conjure before his mind's eye a workman seated before each of them astride upon a wooden block, called a 'horse,' and holding with both hands a gun barrel to the fast-revolving rim; let him fancy the loud sharp noise of the grinding, the monotonous whirr of the machinery, the semi-darkness of the place; and from the iron tube which each workman holds, picture to himself a stream, or rather torrent of

sparks rushing upwards to the roof, as if the very substance of the metal were being converted by his grindstone into flashes and sparks, and as if that conversion were the whole object of the process, and he will have a faint and imperfect idea of the scene presented in the grinding-shed of a large gun-barrel foundry.

After the barrel is bored and ground, it becomes necessary to have it proved. For this purpose, and before any great expenditure of labour or money takes place, a 'pin' or 'nut' is screwed to the breech end, and the barrel is conveyed to the Proving-House. This establishment was founded in 1813, at the instance of the Birmingham Gunmakers' Company, who obtained an Act of Parliament for the purpose. The business of the Proving-House is under the control and direction of three wardens, who are annually chosen from the general body of guardians and trustees of the company. In addition to the members of the Corporation of Gunmakers, the Lords-Lieutenant of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, the members serving in Parliament for these counties, and the magistrates acting in and within seven miles of the town of Birmingham, are *ex officio* guardians. The act was obtained to ensure the proper and careful manufacture of fire-arms in England. Under its provisions, 'every person who shall use, or cause or procure to be used, or to be begun to be used, either by ribbing, break-off fitting, or other process, in any progressive state of manufacture, in the making, manufacturing, or finishing of any gun, fowling-piece, blunderbuss, pistol, or other description of fire-arms, usually called small-arms; or who shall offer for sale, or sell, or cause or procure to be taken or received, or permit or suffer to be received on his behalf, any barrel which shall not first have been duly proved, and marked as proved, at the Proof-House, established at Birmingham, under the provisions of the act, or some other proof-house established by law, shall forfeit and pay for every offence twenty pounds, such penalties to be recovered in a summary way, before two Justices of the Peace, the one-half to go to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish where the offence shall be committed.' As many gun-barrels burst in the severe proof to which they are subjected, they are put to the test before they are mounted. Boys may be seen at all hours of the day in the



THE PROOF-HOUSE.

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 198, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of Middlesex, by WILLIAM LITTLE, 198, Strand aforesaid.—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1851.—SUPPLEMENT.